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Inter-Arab Affairs

Egypt, Syria To Discuss Mitterrand Initiative

JN0510184290 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 5 Oct 90

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] It was officially announced in Cairo that Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid will visit Damascus on Sunday for talks with Syrian officials on the latest developments in the Gulf. The visit will last two days, and 'Abd-al-Majid will be accompanied by Usamah al-Baz, President Mubarak's political adviser. According to the Egyptian statement the Egyptian delegation's visit is taking place at the invitation of Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

It has been learned from well-informed Egyptian sources that the two sides will discuss the basis of the French initiative that French President Francois Mitterrand announced recently in order to formulate a unified position, given that it represents a compromise solution to the current crisis in the Gulf. The two sides will also discuss increasing the number of Egyptian and Syrian forces that have been sent to the Gulf, and seek further coordination between these forces in case any military developments take place in the Gulf region.

It has also been learned that the Egyptian delegation will discuss with President al-Asad the results of the Syrian mediation efforts between Egypt and Iran, and the possibility of holding a meeting with a high-level Iranian delegation to discuss the issue of Egyptian prisoners and Egyptian-Iranian relations.

On the other hand, an Egyptian ministerial delegation will leave for Damascus during the third week of this month to prepare for the first meeting of the Higher Egyptian-Syrian Committee at the end of this month under the two countries' prime ministers.

Syria Said Mediating for Jordan, Saudi Arabia

JN0510132190 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Oct 90

[Dispatch by Randah Habib from Amman]

[Text] Informed sources here have said that Syria is mediating between Saudi Arabia and Jordan following the chill in relations between the two countries after Amman's rejection of the Arab League's resolution accepting the entry of foreign forces into the Arabian Peninsula. The mediation began when Jordan decided to prevent trucks heading for Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states from passing through Jordanian territory in retaliation for the harassment of Jordanian truck drivers by Saudi authorities, delaying them for many days and preventing them from entering Saudi territory.

Last Tuesday [2 October], Jordan rescinded its decision after two days following a telephone contact by the Syrian Prime Minister, Mahmud al-Zu'bi, with his Jordanian counterpart Mudar Badran. The Jordanian decision has had a negative impact on Syria, which is connected to Saudi Arabia via a land route running through Jordan. Al-Zu'bi promised to contact the Saudi authorities in an attempt to improve the atmosphere between Amman and Riyadh and urge the latter to stop its harassment of Jordanians. The first fruit of these mediation efforts has manifested itself in Jordanian trucks' being allowed to transit Saudi territory provided they continue nonstop to the other Gulf states, with the exception of Qatar, which, like Saudi Arabia, prevents the entry of Jordanian trucks into its territory.

It is worth mentioning that Saudi Arabia has stopped the flow of oil to Jordan and expelled the Jordanian military attache and a number of diplomats from the Jordanian Embassy.

GCC's Bisharah Comments on Shevardnadze Meeting

LD0510133690 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1127 GMT 5 Oct 90

[Text] New York, 5 Oct (SPA)—The Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] secretary-general, Abdullah Bisharah, stressed that Soviet and GCC views on the Arabian Gulf crisis, which resulted from the blatant Iraqi aggression against Kuwait, coincided.

This came in a statement made by Abdullah Bisharah after last night's meeting between the GCC foreign ministers and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

He described the meeting as good and constructive. He pointed out that they exchanged views on the crisis in the Arabian Gulf and the current situation in the region in light of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and the destruction of Kuwait and its people.

Islamic Affairs

Islamic Unity Conference Opens in Tehran 8 Oct

Ayatollahs Speak

LD0810201390 Tehran IRNA in English 1532 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 8, IRNA—The fourth Islamic Unity conference attended by 700 local and foreign Muslim scholars and ulema was opened here on the birth anniversary of the prophet Mohammad today. Issues relevant to the Islamic fiqh (jurisprudence), gnosticism, the holy Koran, traditions, and state and politics in Islam will be discussed by four committes during the conference, which is to issue a "charter of unity" resolution at the end of its three-day work.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, member of the Council of Guardians and head of the Islamic Propagation Organisation (IPO) Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati called on the Isalmic sects to thwart plots of the enemies through further unity and consolidation. "We should consolidate our unity with all our might, because unity is the key to removal of disputes," he added.

Ayatollah Nasser Makarem Sharizi, a professor of the Qom theological school was the second speaker of the session who termed the initiation of the unity week as "a basic step taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran toward unity." Referring to the factors sowing discord among Muslims Ayatollah Shirazi called on the world Muslims to stay away from discord through their unity and coordination. "One of the ways toward unity is to inform the people through wide-scale cultural activities," he said.

Khamene'i, Rafsanjani Speak

LD0810162590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Address by Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i and 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to the Islamic Unity Conference in Tehran on 8 October; recorded]

[Excerpts] [Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Praise be to God and his prophet. [passage omitted] During these days which are filled with joy as a result of victories and successes and the proud return of our dear captured ones [released POW's], our dear deceased imam [Ayatollah Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni] is truly missed. God has so decreed that we experience the joy of this period of victory alongside sadness for the loss of our imam. We submit to God's will. Although our deceased imam is not with us, his holy spirit is undoubtedly among us. He is witnessing the continuation of his path and the realization of some of his wishes.

Fortunately, today we hear the heartwarming echo of our dear imam in the voice of someone whom the imam chose himself and who paved the way for us. Today, God be praised, we find that same high-mindedness and those same lofty ideals which conquered the heart of our ummah and world's faithful Muslims in the words of Khamene'i, our eminent leader, the prophet's descendent and student of the deceased imam. One of the manifestations of that fact can be seen in his raising again the idea of a center for proximity [dar al-taqrib—house of coming together] for the Islamic ummah, which has been a long-standing wish of sympathetic Muslims. [passage omitted]

During the imposed war, because of the circumstances and the misleading propaganda, we did not achieve that sacred aim. This happened despite the fact that Islamic Unity Week was established, we made a great deal of effort, and the imam repeatedly issued the call to set up a center for proximity to the Islamic ummah. We are still travelling that path and, God be praised, this year, we celebrate Islamic Unity Week under more suitable circumstances.

The storm and dust arising from the propaganda of the imposed war has abated to some extent. With the increasing clarity in the air of the Islamic realm, realities are being revealed. The purity and sympathy of the Islamic Republic and the Islamic Revolution with regard to the world of Islam, and our great fondness for and belief in the unity of the Islamic world, is more obvious to the world's Muslims today. We sense that arms throughout the world are extended towards the Islamic Republic. Our leader is asked to guide the cooperation and coordination of the Islamic ummah. Fortunately, with the new raising of the idea of a center for proximity and the presence of a notable number of Islamic world dignitaries among us in this sacred gathering, the guests of Islamic Unity Week, we are, God willing, beginning to tread another part of the path to unity. We hope that with the wise prophecies of Khamene'i, the successful examples of which we have often seen during the past few months, that just and important wish of the imam of the ummah and of our ummah will soon be realized and we can see coordination between the Islamic ummah toward the fulfillment of its just demands and toward the eviction of its enemies and satans from the region and from the world of Islam. At the head of just demands is the liberation of noble Jerusalem and the driving away of the forces of arrogance from this dear and Islamic region. [passage omitted] May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

[Khamene'i] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

I, too, congratulate all world Muslims and the honorable and dear nation of Iran and you, dear participants, in this meeting for the blessed birthday of the honorable prophet of Islam, His Holiness Muhammad Mostafa. May God's benedictions be upon him and his scion [participants chant: Peace Be Upon Mohammad and His Scion], and also the birthday of his immaculate relative His Holiness Sadeq, peace and mercy be upon him. [passaged omitted] It has been stated that the axis of Muslims' unification and their practical unity can be seen as remembering his holiness and believing in him. This is a correct statement.

Fortunately, this year coincides with the establishment of the proximity council between the Islamic creeds [majma' al-taqrib bain al-madhaheb al-islamiah] which began as a result of our brothers' endeavors. It should move toward realization of supreme Islamic goals.

There are two main points in the issue of unity; one can say two directions are followed in this issue, each of which maintains its own significance. When we chant the unity slogan, we should observe those two main points. They can be effective in the practical lives of Muslims. One of the two points is to refrain from the differences, arguments, clashes, opposition, and obstructionism which have existed for centuries between various Muslim sects and factions and still exist today. Muslims have always suffered from those differences. If we go back in the history of Islam, we see that either all or a great deal of those arguments and oppositions stem from the systems relying on the power of their material wealth. You refer to the history of Islam and see for yourselves, from the first differences, the issue of the creation of the

Koran and other differences have existed between various Islamic sects, in particular the differences which have existed for longer times between the Shi'as and the Sunnis. The cause of all of these differences in the Islamic states is always powers. Of course, general ignorance is a contributing factor, illogical fanaticism is a contributing factors, and provocation of emotions is a contributing factors, but these are secondary issues. None can bring about the huge bloody events which we see in history. These huge events originate from those power masters who seek some benefit from such discord. [passage omitted]

The first step toward the unity that we mention and chant about, and believe in wholeheartedly, and pursue and work for, should start by shunning those differences, arguments, and clashes. This satisfies God almighty and pleases believers, devotees, authorities, and the wise. The foundation should be created for such a path. If Muslims have differences of opinion, differences in their tribes, differences in their races, this is fine. No problems should cause differences, arguments, clashes, or disputes among Muslims. That is the first point. [passage omitted] The second point is that this unity should be aimed at and serve Islamic sovereignty, otherwise it is futile. [passage omitted]

In the past 10, rather, 12 years, our enemies have engaged in waging a propaganda campaign against us. They have tried to portray Islam with an ugly appearance and to portray the Islamic Republic in an ugly fashion. They have tried to impose certain fabrications on the people and to propagate a series of ambiguities among people around the world. The truth is different. The truth consists of a country which is strong, decisive, vast, progressive, and striding toward greater progression. The truth is a country which is striding forward under the shadow of Islam, in the direction of the Islamic justice and in the direction of honor and strength emanated from the glory of the world Islam. The truth is a country which enjoys the attention and affection of the Muslim masses in all corners of the world. Let the enemy wage some sort of a propaganda campaign, utter some irrelevant remarks, commit aggressive act, asperse us politically or economically—will it make any difference? They have constantly done so and will continue to do so. Two brothers in the Islamic Republic may argue with each other over some issue. This is very common, and it would be odd if they did not. The absence of such arguments would indicate apathy. The brothers stand about the Majlis exchanging views on the issue of the Assembly of Experts, political issues, or economic issues. They have differences of opinion. Arguments over the ascertaniment of justice are the same as discussions aimed at clearing the way. Each voices his opinion. That is all there is to it. They are brothers. Whomever wishes to test them can do so. Those very brothers who argue with each other over some issue would join hands and clench their fists at the slightest aggression against the Islamic Republic's system. They encounter danger in order to safeguard Islam and the Islamic system. [people chant: God Is Great; Khomeyni Is The Leader; Death To The Zionists; Death To America; Death To Mujahidin; Death To Israel]

You have seen the way the radios create such a hue and cry over this very fraternal quarrel and argument, as if a significant event was taking place. No! That event which is taking place is that of the Iranian nation's decisive decision to pursue the objectives of the Islamic system, as was depicted by our dear imam. That event which is taking place is—God willing—that of a faster and more attentive move towards the attainment of the Islamic objectives. Those events which the enemy seeks—those events which are sought by vindictive and sick hearts—have been and will remain far from our Islamic environment. Such are the problems faced by the Islamic system. They are nothing! If the ulema, the progressive thinkers, the intellectuals, the dignatories, the forerunners of unity in the Islamic societies and countries turn their course of movement towards the establishment of Islamic sovereignty, then that movement will be successful. If not by surrendering to the rule of the Taghuti governments [idol worshippers, normally used as a derogatory term in reference to the Pahlovi dynasty], the subordinates and incompetent governments who follow the commands of the enemy and surrender to the infidels, obviously there will be no guarantee of unity. On the one hand you chant the slogans of unity, wrecking your nerves and suffering sorrow, while on the other hand a number of weak willed, mercenary, and stooge-like individuals who have unjustly gained some money through extortions and by force appear to squander your savings and undo all the good deeds. This proximity council between the Islamic creeds, which we intend to establish, and toward the establishment of which our brothers have endeavored—and I am sincerely grateful to them and to those who have and will cooperate—should, of course, prepare the groundwork on the religious and intellectual aspects, as well as those related to the Islamic jurisprudence, teachings, and tenets. However, the Islamic thinkers should bear the fundamental objective in mind. The enemies of Islam do not want it so, but whatever happens is that which is willed by God. God succeeds over all matters. I hope that the Almighty will bestow His blessing upon these gentlemen and grant them success, grant us success on the path of Islam and toward the fulfillment of the Islamic objectives, render the sacred soul of our great imam happy and content, and help us please the lord of the age—may our souls be sacrificed for him. May God's blessing be upon you all. [crowd chants in support]

Palestinian Affairs

Al-Aqsa Violence Prompts Widespread Reaction

Mosque Preacher Among Dead

JN0810172590 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1707 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] Tunis, 8 Oct (INA)—A Palestinian source announced here today that Shaykh Yusuf Abu-Sunaynah, the al-Aqsa Mosque preacher, was martyred today after being hit by the Zionist occupation troops' bullets during the fierce clashes that erupted near the Holy Jerusalem Mosque compounds in the Old City.

The Palestinian source said the number of martyrs of the Zionist massacre has now risen to 30, including a woman from the town of Qalabiyah [name as received] in occupied Palestine.

Clashes Spread in West Bank

JN0810143790 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] Sixteen Palestinians were killed and more than 300 wounded today by Israeli gunfire in bloody clashes between Palestinians, Israeli police, and border police, who opened fire indiscriminately on Palestinian demonstrators who had sought to bar the entry of the Trustees of Temple Mount to the al-Aqsa Mosque.

Israeli authorities have sealed off access points to the al-Aqsa mosque, where there are still more than fifteen wounded Palestinians, whose transfer to hospital has proved to be impossible. Scores of Palestinians have been arrested, including the known figure Faysal al-Husayni.

A short while ago, Bassam Abu-Sharif, media adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, called a news conference in Tunis in which he put the number of the Palestinian martyrs at 22, plus 1,000 wounded. Abu-Sharif said the clashes are still going on, and that they have spread throughout the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israeli authorities have also sealed off Jerusalem, Abu-Sharif added. He charged that this massacre was commited by Israel's Prime Minister Shamir, called on all the Palestinians to step up resistance throughout the occupied land, and urged all Arabs to boycott the interests of any countries backing Israel. Abu-Sharif particularly called on the United States to state its clear position on all the massacres commited by Israel.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in Jordan has denounced the savage massacre perpetrated by the occupation forces and Zionist settlers in occupied Jerusalem, which, he said, has claimed dozens of Palestinian martyrs and hundreds of wounded. The spokesman said the massacre is designed to quell the intifadah while the world's attention is focused on the American war forecast to flare up in the Gulf. The spokesman called for popular and official action in response to the gruesome massacre, and urged the UN Security Council to dispatch international forces to the occupied land to protect the Palestinian people.

In Damascus, a spokesman for the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestinian called on the international community to take firm action against the Israeli massacre, and requested the Security Council to send international forces to protect the Palestinian people and to take the necessary retaliatory measures against the Israeli occupation—against which deterrent action by the international community has been lacking. The spokesman condemned the conniving stance of the U.S. Administration that has thus far blocked any practical UN measures to protect the Palestinian people and ensure an end to Israeli occupation.

Arab Liberation Front Vows Response

JN0810175490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] Occupied Palestine, 8 Oct (INA)—The Arab Liberation Front [ALF] command in the occupied territories has stressed that what is happening in the Arabian Gulf, the Arabian Peninsula, and Occupied Palestine is one link in the chain of the Zionist- imperialist scheme that aims to humiliate our Arab people, tear apart their security, violate their territories, and plunder their national wealth.

In a statement issued today in response to the savage massacre committed by the Zionist troops against our Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territories, the ALF said these massacres coincide with the imperialist-Zionist-treasonous onslaught against the Arab nation and its glorious fortress, Iraq.

The ALF said the people of the continuous, historic intifadah will stand only in the Arab trench that faces and confronts the trenches of the Americans, their allies, and treasonous agents—the lackeys of Camp David and the pioneers of submission and defeatism.

The ALF issued a warning to the Zionist entity on the savage massacres it commits against our Palestinian Arab people. It stated that it will respond to these massacres and destroy the wall of conspiratorial silence, and that its militants will be the Arab arm that will raise the weapon of the holy right to strike at the occupiers and occupation.

It also warned the treasonous Husni and agent Fahd and their ilk from going too far in attacking the Palestinian Arab people and trespassing on their rights. It stressed that the arm of Palestine is the arm of 200 million Arabs, and that this arm is strong, long, and capable of reaching the traitors and the dens.

Intifadah Forces on 'Maximum' Alert

JN0810211990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2054 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] Tunis, 8 Oct (INA)—'Abbas Zaki, secretary of the Palestinian leadership [title as received], has said the Zionist entity is planning a major massacre against the Palestinian people following today's crime.

In a statement he made to INA this evening, 'Abbas Zaki held the United States directly responsible for supporting the Zionist schemes and ugly massacres against the Palestinian people.

He said the Palestinian leadership has placed intifadah forces on a maximum state of alert to support the citizens' steadfastness in Holy Jerusalem, adding that the occupied territories are boiling after this barbaric crime, which will not go unpunished.

Fatah's Bal'awi Comments

JN0810183490 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1700 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Interview with Hakam Bal'awi, Fatah Central Committee member, by unidentified correspondent on 8 October in Paris—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr Hakam Bal'awi, according to latest reports, the death toll from today's clashes with the Israeli occupation Army is 22, in addition to 400 wounded. How do you react to these bloody incidents? Have you been in touch with the Palestinian leadership? Have you any fresh news?

[Bal'awi] To my knowledge, the figure is higher; it is more than 30 killed, and around 800 wounded, and the clashes are still going on. Across the occupied land from Gaza to Qalqilyah, Palestinian masses have been out demonstrating noisily against Israeli occupation and the terror practiced by Israel on a daily basis.

[Reporter] Will the PLO take political action?

[Bal'awi] The PLO has requested a UN Security Council meeting to look into these continuing Israeli massacres—the one in al-Burayj in Gaza, and others elsewhere in Palestinian villages and cities. The latest massacre now illustrates the need for the UN Security Council to pass an unambiguous, explicit resolution on the Israeli occupation and the protection of the Palestinians in the occupied land.

[Reporter] Is your visit to France preplanned, or are you here on a special mission?

[Bal'awi] I have raised the subject today with French officials whom I saw at the Elysee, namely with Mr. (Jenniken), President Mitterand's adviser, and Mr. (Le Claire), the officer in charge of the Mideast Desk at the French Foreign Ministry. The first item in our talks was this morning's Jerusalem massacre, which is just one link in the chain of systematic Israeli atrocities in al-Burayj and other areas of our occupied land. I made a point of telling the friends that France has a key, effective role which is recognizable to us—namely, that they can work toward prompt international action to have the UN Security Council pass a resolution calling for protection of the Palestinian people under occupation.

[Reporter] And what did the French say to that?

[Bal'awi] The French emphasized that they will fulfill their role, and that for them legitimacy and resolutions are indivisible, and that they do not divide resolutions between this and that. Rather, they will take a clear, explicit position, and will not stand for such massacres and a continuation of this violence and terror against Palestinians.

Security Council Meeting Sought

JN0810142390 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1405 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] Tunis, 8 Oct (INA)—The PLO has called for an urgent UN Security Council session to discuss the Zionist crimes against Palestinian civilians following the fresh massacre committed by Zionist authorities in the holy Jerusalem mosque today.

A Palestinian source told the INA correspondent in Tunis that the PLO has urged the UN secretary general to immediately intervene to protect the Palestinian people, who are being mass murdered by the Israeli occupation authorities. He warned the international community against turning a deaf ear to this crime which Israel is committing while taking advantage of the Gulf crisis to cover its aggression.

The Zionist occupation authorities this morning committed a new massacre that resulted in the martyrdom of 14 Palestinians and the wounding of more than 1,000 others by the bullets of the Zionist soldiers and settlers in the grounds of the holy Jerusalem mosque.

'Arafat Asks Mitterrand for UN Action

JN0810162590 Paris Radio Monte Carlo
in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has sent an oral message to French President Francois Mitterrand demanding French action at the UN Security Council to adopt a resolution providing the necessary protection for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. The message was conveyed by Hakam Bal'awi, representative of the state of Palestine in Tunis.

50,000 Attend Al-Baq'ah Protest

JN0910093590 (Clandestine) Al-Quds
Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 0906 GMT 9 Oct 90

[Text] Brother strugglers, in response to the call made by al-Quds radio, our correspondent in the al-Baq'ah camp stated that some 50,000 citizens took to the streets in the camp this morning and organized a tumultuous march to protest the dastardly Zionist enemy's massacre of our people in the holy Jerusalem mosque.

Our people in the camp announced a general and open strike according to which they will refrain from going to work or to school.

PNC's Subayh Reaffirms Cairo Declaration

NC0810182190 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1251 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 8 Oct (MENA)—Muhammad Subayh, secretary of the Palestine National Council [PNC], has affirmed that the Palestinian people and the PLO remain committed to the Cairo Declaration which renounces terrorism.

In a statement to MENA, the Palestinian official said that the PLO has always condemned terrorism. He pointed out that the Palestinian people and the PLO have adopted numerous resolutions through the PNC condemning all forms of terrorism, particularly the organized terrorism of the Israeli occupation authorities against our Palestinian people.

Referring to certain Israeli statements, the Palestinian official said that all attempts to harm the reputation of the Palestinian struggle will fail because they aim to provoke divisions between our Arab nation's peoples and their leaders.

Subayh asserted that the Palestinian people have no quarrel with any other Arab people with whom the Palestinian have bonds of fraternity, intermarriage, history, language, and a collective struggle and future. He said that the Palestinian people will not heed the attempts being made to involve the Palestinian struggle in bickerings that do not serve our Arab nation's struggle and the unity of its people.

Executive Committee Members Discuss Gulf Plan

'Abd-Rabbuh Introduces Initiative

LD0510201690 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Oct 90

[Text] Despite some Arab regimes' policies of blackmail and outbidding against the PLO following its support for Iraq, the PLO has always been endeavoring to help in finding a political solution to the Gulf crisis by opening the door to a speedy solution to the Middle East's main problem: The Palestinian problem, which has been driven away from the fore by events in the Gulf. However, it has always been present in any of Saddam Husayn's initiatives.

In an endeavor to find an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis, the PLO has crystallized a 10-point plan based upon international legitimacy, i.e. the withdrawal of foreign forces from the Gulf and the lifting of the economic blockade against Iraq.

The plan was unveiled in Tunis today by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO's Executive Committee, who said that the PLO will present its initiative to the Palestinian Central Council, due to take place in Tunis 10 October, to lay down the foundations of a Palestinian political initiative to find a political solution to the Gulf crisis. International legitimacy is one of the principles of the new Palestinian initiative, which should be, as 'Abd-Rabbuh added, the basis for resolving the Gulf crisis and all other problems in the Middle East, particularly the Palestinian problem.

He also pointed out that the Palestinian leadership will also discuss this initiative with other Arab countries which have affirmed their commitment to the principle of an Arab political solution to the Gulf crisis and have rejected foreign interference.

Milhim Views Plan, Mubarak Speech

JN0610152790 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 Oct 90 Second Edition p 13

[By Sa'd al-Silawi: "The CIA Offers Half A Billion for the Implementation of an Alternative Leadership Plan"]

[Text] It has been revealed that several Palestinian leaders and an intelligence team sent by the United States met in Cairo recently. During the meeting, the sum of $0.5 billion was offered to finance an alternative leadership plan in response to the pan- Arab position adopted by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and the PLO, and the latter's public stand in the same trench with sisterly Iraq.

In an exclusive statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, Muhammad Milhim, PLO Executive Committee member, said that these unsuccessful attempts to find an alternative leadership have long been rejected by the Palestinian people, and they are no more than an attempt to bring the dead back to life. All the past attempts have fallen into oblivion. If they want a new Camp David, then its fate will be worse than the fate of previous alternatives, especially during the era of Arab awakening.

The PLO Executive Committee member expressed his deep regret over President Mubarak's speech in which he attacked and aimed accusations at the Palestinians. It was a downfall which I would not wish on the Egyptian president or on Egypt, Milhim said. Leveling haphazard accusations at leaders, Palestinians, Iraqis, and Jordanians is regrettable and is an attempt to bring the dead back to life and glorify al-Sadat as an signal for the creation of a new Camp David. They want to suggest that there is a new al-Sadat, whose birth will coincide with the birth of an alternative to the PLO. The Palestinian people will not accept an alternative; nor will the Egyptian people accept a new Camp David.

Milhim said Palestinians no longer care if they are accused of terrorism against those who have occupied their land and dislodged them from their homes, and against those who are practicing the ugliest forms of terrorism against the Palestinian children.

He added that some Gulf states are terrorizing Palestinians, deporting those who do not deserve to be deported, and threatening to cut off their livelihoods, although they are the ones who built these states.

Milhim announced that the PLO Central Council will convene soon, and that invitations have been circulated. The Council meeting, which will be attended by the secretaries-general of the various Palestinian Revolution factions, will discuss the Intifadah and ways of supporting and escalating it in the face of the Israeli occupation, as well as the Gulf crisis and its latest developments, and the issue of the new crusader campaign on the land of both Arabs and Muslims.

'Arafat Denies Role in 'Subversive Acts' in Egypt

JN0710184690 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1713 GMT 7 Oct 90

[Text] Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat has sent a message to President Husni Mubarak stressing that the Palestinian people inside and outside Egypt fully appreciate the Egyptian role and its importance in reaching a just and comprehensive solution to the problem of the usurped Palestinian rights, as reported by our correspondent in Cairo Mustafa Bakri:

[Begin Bakri recording] According to informed Palestinian sources, 'Arafat stressed that the PLO's leaders and cadres categorically refuse to be a tool to strike at the stability of any Arab country, especially Egypt. He indicated that this stability serves not only the country concerned, but also the Palestine question. Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] denied that Iraq has asked Palestinians to carry out any subversive acts in Egypt. He said Egypt is an Arab country and Palestine is also an Arab country, and it would be illogical for the Palestinians to aim their arrows at Egypt or any other Arab country. He added that if the Palestinians had only one arrow in their quiver, this arrow would be fired only at the Israeli occupation. Abu-'Ammar stressed that there should be an accurate Egyptian investigation into any such plans, especially since some of these attempts may be individual, and the PLO has nothing to do with them.

Cairo has recently announced the capture of 23 Palestinians and seven Iraqis on charges of involvement in a sabotage plan aimed at undermining stability in Egypt. [end recording]

'Arafat Receives USSR's Primakov 7 Oct

JN0710171790 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Oct 90

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar, president of the state of Palestine and PLO Executive Committee chairman, has received at his place of residence in Baghdad Yevgeniy Primakov, member of the USSR Presidential Council, and the delegation accompanying him, which includes the deputy premier and representatives of the [CPSU] Central Committee and the Soviet Government, for the third time in 48 hours.

During the meeting they held a comprehensive review of the developments of the situation in the Gulf region, the efforts toward a framework of the joint Soviet-Palestinian coordination to reach a political settlement of the Gulf crisis, and to avert the dangers of a devastating war in the region.

Attending the meeting were brothers Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], and 'Azzam al-Ahmad, Palestinian ambassador to Iraq.

Khalaf Stresses Gulf-Palestinian Linkage

Optimistic for Political Progress

JN0810161190 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Oct 90 Second Edition pp 1, 9

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] Salah Khalaf, Fatah Central Committee member and PLO second in command, affirmed he is optimistic about finding a political solution to the Gulf crisis away from the drums of war. He described those calling for the war option as seeking to destroy the region. In an exclusive statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] said efforts are being focused on controlling the crisis and reaching a solution which satisfies the Arab nation and world public opinion calling for peace.

On attempts to find an alternative leadership, Abu Iyad said that this is not the first time we have heard such a call, as though the PLO were a spineless skeleton that could be affected by anyone possessing money or authority. He said the PLO is strong in its people, political position, and the credibility it enjoys in the occupied territories and among our people and the Arab nation. He noted that this is especially evident in the current circumstances, when the good and bad have become distinct. He said matters have become clear-cut: There is a bloc that wants war, destruction, and foreign intervention for this nation, and another that wants dignity for the Arab nation and refuses to join the enemy bloc.

On some Arab Gulf states' deportation of some Palestinians, the Central Committee member said that the Qatari Government has been the boldest, since it deported a large number of Palestinians and Jordanians. Abu Iyad indicated that those people have contributed toward the establishment of the State of Qatar and lived there for more than 30 years. However, he said, there has been ingratitude for this Arab effort, and the deportations took place. He added: We say that the time will come when whoever harms the interests of our Arab nation, especially the Palestinian people, will be called to account.

On the demand to link the region's issues, he said the Gulf crisis has raised the issue of whether legitimacy belongs to world nations or to the United States only, and whether legitimacy is divisible or whole. He said: From this premise, we saw fleets and aircraft being deployed after the recent events. This is good. But where was this massing when the Palestinian, Lebanese, and Syrian territories were occupied?

He asked: Where is the objection to the principle of annexation? Israel annexed Jerusalem and Golan. However, these fleets did not move. Hence, the Palestine question should be linked to international legitimacy so as to apply legitimacy to all—Kuwait, Jerusalem and the Golan.

He said some Arab states urge the United States to ignore the Palestine question and wage war against Iraq so as to save their faces before their peoples and to defeat Iraq, even through tyrannical and foreign colonialist forces. He added: Hence, we affirm that since legitimacy is indivisible, the linkage is important. He said all who refuse to establish this linkage do not understand that we will all regret this historic moment if all the region's issues are not been resolved together.

Responding to a question by SAWT AL-SHA'B on the war possibilities, the U.S. President's statements in which he refers to the linkage, and the French and European efforts, Abu Iyad said: I believe the war prospects have retreated in favor of a political solution. He said: The statements of Mitterrand, British officials, and even Bush's UN speech indicate that the political solution is preferred to the military solution, because the military solution will be destructive not for Iraq only, but also for many other states, including the interests of the United States. Hence, I believe that the recent statements and the important visit the Soviet envoy paid at the head of a delegation to Baghdad and Jordan is considered the beginning of a retreat of the war solution in favor of the political solution.

Responding to a question on 'Arafat's intensive visits to Jordan and how he assesses Jordanian-Palestinian relations and the viewpoints of both sides on the Gulf crisis, Abu Iyad said: Jordanian-Palestinian relations are in their best shape because Jordan under His Majesty King Husayn has adopted an honorable and principled stand that reflects genuine Arab chivalry. Hence, he said, the good stands have met in one trench. Naturally, he added, this has reflected on the historical relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples. He said: We take great pride in these relations, given that they represent the unity of a people and a cause, and we will work to maintain the strength of these relations, that support the Arab nation and its principles away from the temporary gains and cheap stands adopted by some Arab states in favor of the United States and foreign powers.

Criticizes Al-Shar'

JN0710153990 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Oct 90

[Text] In Amman, Fatah Central Committee member Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] today sharply criticized Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar's rejection of any link between the Gulf crisis and the Palestine question. Abu-Iyad said he wondered whether al-Shar' has attained strategic parity with Israel, and whether he has a plan to liberate Jerusalem and the Golan. He added: Perhaps the occupation of the Golan means nothing to the Syrian minister, who sees no need to link the Gulf crisis with the problems of the region.

The Palestinian official said some Arab countries are pushing the United States and the West to launch a war against Iraq to save their faces in front of their peoples and triumph over Iraq by depending on the foreign colonialist forces, as he put it.

Algeria

Bendjedid Discusses Elections, Gulf Crisis

LD0810234190

[Editorial report] Algiers Television Service in Arabic at 1948 GMT on 8 October carries a 2 hour 55 minute "Facing the Press" program broadcast "Live from the Presidency". The guest is Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid.

A reporter asks Chadli Bendjedid a few questions about his thoughts and feelings during and after the 5 October riots of two years ago. The president indicates that he felt sadness and regret that such incidents took place. He stresses that the government and the leadership made the right decision to tackle those riots. He stresses that his government and the National Liberation Front [FLN] will continue implementing the present economic and political reforms. He indicates the importance of the FLN and how its doors are open for all Algerian people. He said that he regrets the rumors by a former minister about embezzlement, emphasizing that a committee has been set up to investigate these allegations, and that it is up to this minister to provide evidence to prove his allegations.

Chadli Bendjedid discusses the forthcoming legislative elections, and states that he hopes that all parties will respect the law and regulations on such elections; if not, the Constitution allows the president to postpone such elections. He announces that the time is not right for him to leave his post.

Regarding the Army, he states that reforms took place in order for modernization. As an example, he states that a Ministry of Defense was created recently.

A reporter probes the subject of legislative elections, stating that the announcement of early legislative elections was made with some reservations, since the holding of these elections is linked to stability and social peace in the country. He asks, with the latest developments in the national political arena, if these elections can be postponed, and if the electoral law is likely to be revised, since some political parties and some prominent figures have requested this.

Chadli Bendjedid replies: "I have clarified this and have spoken in the past few weeks with the leaders of all the political parties. I told these that as far as I am concerned, I will respect the rules of the game. I will stick to the date, although I have not set the exact date yet. I will respect the results in all cases. The voting will be for the new parliament. However, in return I am asking that the rules of the game be respected, and that work be undertaken to create a suitable atmosphere to enable the Algerian citizens to express their opinions freely, democratically, and openly in calm and tranquility. I will not allow the elections for such a vital, strategic, and fateful institution on which the future of the Algerian society depends—because the parliament is the decisionmaker and its powers today are wider than those of the president of the republic—to be held in an electrified atmosphere or in an unsuitable atmosphere, or in an atmosphere which will not enable Algerian citizens to express themselves freely. If such is the case, we will postpone the elections. Yes, you heard me—I will postpone them. However, my wish is to see everybody contribute to creating this suitable atmosphere and respecting the rules of the game in order to enable the Algerian citizens to express themselves freely and choose their representatives who have a program."

The president said: As far as I am concerned, I will respect the rules of the game in the framework of the law. I will go even further than that: There has been speculation about the fate of the president of the republic after the elections, by saying that in all cases I am not prepared to leave my post so long as the atmosphere is not suitable. When I see that the atmosphere is suitable and that the institutions I promised to the people have become effective, then I will think it over. However, in all cases, no matter which party or group wins the majority, I will continue to carry out the tasks entrusted to me by the Constitution and given to me by the Algerian people, to complete this process until the end of my mandate. Afterwards the Algerian people can choose a son of this nation to complete the process."

The president announces that, starting next year, the Algerian people will start to witness the fruits of the current reforms in the economy and farming. He calls on his people to show more patience, because such reforms require time before they start to bear fruit. President Bendjedid recalls Algeria's policies regarding current changes in the world. He states that the Third World is paying the price for such changes. He reiterates the need for the edification of the Maghreb to face up to the present economic groups such as the EEC, he says. Dialogue is underway with such groups in order to achieve mutual cooperation, and that joint meetings will take place in the near future.

The president discloses that he has read the complaints sent by citizens to the president, and that he tries to solve their problems.

Regarding the Gulf crisis, President Bendjedid stresses that this issue is very serious. He indicates that Algeria's position regarding this crisis is very clear. Algeria is against the invasion of Kuwait by force. He recalls meetings with an Iraqi minister prior to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. He notes how he told the Iraqi ministers about Algeria's concern over the collapse of oil prices and ensuing the hardship caused to some oil-producing countries. Regarding the border dispute between Kuwait and Iraq, he says he told the minister that Algeria is ready to mediate and solve this border dispute, and that Algeria is totally against use of force in this border dispute. Following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, he told the Iraqi envoy who visited Algeria that Algeria rejects this Iraqi invasion because it is a serious action. Algeria is against oppressing Iraq and against the presence of foreign forces in the Gulf area, says Bendjedid.

A reporter asks if the political problem now dominating the international scene is the Gulf crisis. The reporter indicates that Algeria's position is not understood in international circles, even though it has been expressed in statements and communiques from the Foreign Ministry. He asks to be told the position of Algeria on what is going on in the Gulf. The reporter says there is a lot of talk about an Arab initiative to resolve this crisis, and that on 6 October Dr. George Habash, the leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said that Algeria and President Chadli Bendjedid have an opportunity and the potential to enable Bendjedid to launch an initiative that would have an effect on this crisis. The reporter asks for Chadli Bendjedid's views.

Bendjedid replies: "The Gulf problem is very, very complex. Sometimes several brothers, even official ones, do not have all the facts about this grave problem. However, Algeria's position is constant and clear. It has been so from the beginning. At the beginning of the problem we made public our position. We were one of the two countries—Algeria and Morocco—that expressed their positions before other Arab countries. Our position has not changed and will not change: We are against the occupation of Kuwait by force, because we belong to international institutions and we comply with the conventions of these institutions, starting with the Arab League, to the OAU, to the Nonaligned Movement, to the United Nations. We comply with the conventions on the respect for the borders inherited from the colonial era. This has been our policy in the past, and we will not change it."

He adds: "This is not a surprise for those concerned who hear this. I tell you frankly: Before the invasion of Kuwait, and directly after the Baghdad summit, I received an Iraqi minister here in Algiers. The objective was to convey to me a picture of the suffering caused by the policies of certain states in the Gulf that had caused a drop in oil prices, and therefore damage to the national economies of some Arab countries, including Iraq. My answer was: I have the same view, and we share Iraq's interest in and preoccupation about this problem, because we have suffered considerable damage. The brothers who have caused the cuts in oil prices bear a large part of responsibility for the suffering experienced by the Algerian society. But everyone has his own style. Iraq threatened with its own methods. As for us, we made reproaches to those concerned. We sent the oil minister who had made a tour and put those brothers in the picture about the damage and difficulties we suffered due to the oil price cuts caused by them."

He stated: "Concerning the problem of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border dispute, the dispute over the fixing of borders, I told Iraq that if its demands are tabled in an Arab framework, then I will try to persuade and to put pressure, in the name of brotherhood, on the other brothers in order to tackle the problem and resolve it definitively. However, if tomorrow you use force to occupy part of Kuwait, using whatever justification, then we can not share your view—do not ask us to support you. That happened before the invasion of Kuwait."

He continued: "After the invasion of Kuwait, I received an Iraqi minister. He tried to give me the causes and justifications that led to the invasion. I answered him in the same language and with the same position I had expressed before the occupation. I imagined that the operation involved the occupation of part of Kuwait, given the Iraqi territorial claims. I said then that Iraq cannot ask Algeria to support the occupation of Kuwait, because our principles are sacred. We cannot change our policy toward this subject, and we have no circumstantial policies. We are against the occupation of the lands of other countries, irrespective of justifications, because it would set a grave precedent."

Chadli Bendjedid said: "However, we do not take part in, do not support, and do not remain silent on the persecution of Iraq, the destruction of Iraq, and the starving of the Iraqi people; nor will we remain silent vis-a-vis the presence of foreign troops. Thus, from the start, our position has been clear. We have expressed it directly to those concerned. Our position is no surprise. It is constant. We have no circumstantial positions. We have permanent, firm, and unswerving positions. We will always be with the just causes in the world."

The president goes on to recall the measures and initiatives of Algeria in order to find a way out of this crisis, such as sending envoys to a number of countries, including Iraq, and adopting an Arab Maghreb Union initiative. He states that he believes that an international solution is required to solve this problem, but does not elaborate.

President Bendjedid dwells on the educational and cultural systems in the country and how Algeria is a multicultural society. The president then is asked about his activities during his holiday. He states that he usually reads books and papers, plays tennis, goes walking, and enjoys being with his family.

Egypt

Presidential Office Condemns Al-Aqsa Incident

NC0810204590 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2012 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 8 Oct (MENA)—Egypt has expressed its deep concern and extreme indignation over the bloody incidents that occurred in the al-Aqsa Mosque plaza in Jerusalem today that left several dead and wounded. A statement released by the Presidential Office this evening said that while Egypt expresses its deep regret at these painful incidents, it denounces the violation of sanctities and places of worship. Egypt believes that assaulting a citizen while performing religious rites represents an aggression against human rights and endangers his life. The statement denounced the Israeli authorities' brutal repression of Palestinian citizens. It said that the Israeli measures exceeded all limits.

The statement exhorted all parties in Jerusalem to exercise self- restraint to avoid any repercussions that might lead to grave consequences in these critical circumstances through which the region is passing. It held Israel responsible for safeguarding the Islamic sanctities in Jerusalem and for preventing any attempts by Jewish settlers in the occupied territories to violate the al-Aqsa Mosque's sanctity.

Ghali, Shevardnadze Discuss Gulf Crisis

NC0510173890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1720 GMT 5 Oct 90

[Text] New York, 5 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, met here today with Soviet foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

A responsible source told MENA that the meeting was held within the framework of consultations between Egypt and the Soviet Union on important issues. He stressed that agreement was reached on continuing and intensifying bilateral consultations during the current crisis. The source added that the talks centered on the Gulf crisis and that the two countries have identical views, particularly on the need for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the restoration of legitimacy to it.

The source said that Egypt and the Soviet Union agreed that there should be no interference in Kuwait's internal affairs or any measures affecting the Kuwaiti people's basic rights.

Ghali Discusses Terrorist Threats, Gulf Crisis

NC0510184690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Oct 90

[Text] Washington, 5 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stressed that Egypt is capable of containing any threats from abroad. He said that to be successful any terrorist operation must have some sort of "cooperation" from inside, but such cooperation does not exist in Egypt.

Dr. Ghali was replying to questions during an interview with CNN television network about the search by Egyptian security organs of a Saudi airliner prior to its departure from Cairo airport last night, and the "threats" about which President Husni Mubarak spoke in his speech yesterday.

The Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs added that he can confirm that 99 per cent of the Egyptian people, if not 100 per cent, support President Mubarak's policy and condemn Iraq's aggresive intervention in Kuwait.

In response to a question, Dr. Ghali referred to the existence of "evidence" that Iraq had sent groups of terrorists to Egypt, but said he could not talk about this evidence because he was in New York to attend the meetings of the U.N. General Assembly. He stressed that he can confirm, on the basis of his knowledge of Egyptian organs' working methods, that they are capable of containing, confronting, and foiling any type of terrorist operation inside Egypt.

He also stressed that Egypt's stand on the Gulf crisis is firm and will not change. Egypt opposed and condemned the Iraqi intervention and demands the implementation of the U.N. resolutions, he said.

He added that Egypt will continue its efforts until the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwaiti territories is brought about. In reply to a question, he said, however, that the possibility of reaching a peaceful solution to the crisis appears very limited, yet we must try again and again even though the possibilities of such a solution are very limited because war would be terrible for the region.

Dr. Ghali expressed his belief that after a solution to the present crisis is reached, efforts must be made to create a "driving force" [quwwat daf'] with the aim of finding a new plan that suits the region, similar to the Marshall Plan for the European countries after the Second World War. He added that it could be possible to achieve "Arab solidarity" and also to find a solution for the Palestinian problem through this plan.

Dr. Ghali then spoke about Egypt's burdens and the price it is paying because of the Gulf crisis. He noted that the human burden is at the forefront of these burdens, particularly as one million Egyptians are still in Iraq. He said that some of them are returning to Egypt, others are still hesitant about returning, and some of them would not find jobs when they return. He also referred to the burden represented by the drop in the main sources of foreign currencies as a result of this crisis, which he estimated at between $2 and $3 billion dollars over the coming 12 months.

Tunisia

Statement Condemns Al-Aqsa Violence

LD0910000190 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Statement by the Tunisian Foreign Ministry on 8 October]

[Excerpts] The Tunisian Government has learned with utmost sorrow and grief of the martyrdom of tens of Palestinian strugglers, and the wounding of hundreds others in defense of the land and the holy places while confronting the unjust Israeli occupation forces in holy Jerusalem this morning.

While again declaring its total solidarity with the Palestinian people in its heroic struggle and its stand alongside it in its predicament, Tunisia's Government and people strongly condemn this abominable crime of the Israeli forces against unarmed, innocent civilians. It also urges world public opinion and international organizations to take firm and urgent measures to put an end to these inhuman practices which constitute a flagrant challenge to moral values and international charters.

It has become clear that Israel is using the new developments in the region to implement its expansionist and colonialist plans, to escalate its brutality and repression against the Palestinian citizens in Ghaza, all the towns and cities of the occupied West Bank, and holy Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

Tunisia also affirms its total solidarity with the PLO and its support for the intifadah of the courageous Palestinian people for the sake of achieving its legitimate aims.

Bahrain

Defense Chief Discusses Gulf Deployment

Says Troops on Front Lines

JN0710124690 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0845 GMT 4 Oct 90

[Text] Manama, 4 Oct (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Hamad Ibn-'Isa Al Khalifah, Bahrain's heir apparent and commander in chief of Bahrain's Defense Force, has stressed that the liberation of Kuwait is a Gulf duty before being an international duty.

In an interview with the chief editors of local papers and Bahraini media representatives, published in the local newspapers today, His Highness Shaykh Hamad said it is impossible for Iraq to stay in Kuwait. He said the destruction inflicted there by the Iraqi regime has been limited to material things, and the Gulf people do not care about material things but [words indistinct] in the first place.

His highness said that what happened in Kuwait is a great tragedy. However, he said, this tragedy must make us all reassess our march and avoid any obstacles or slackness.

He continued: This invasion has prompted the Gulf states to strengthen their defenses and economy. It has also made them strengthen their ties, not only among the leaders, but also among citizens. This is because the Gulf Cooperation Council was set up primarily to bolster cohesion among the peoples of the region. The GCC member states have moved from the phase of joint interests to the phase of common destiny. These states have never disagreed over the objectives.

His Highness Shaykh Hamad stressed that reformulating world security within the new framework is related to the manner in which the current crisis is resolved, and that world security will be established in light of the solutions to the current crisis.

He stressed that any security arrangements in the region will not be imposed ones. He said the GCC, the Arab League, the Islamic Conference Organization, [words indistinct] in addition to international organizations and the UN Security Council.

His highness the Bahraini heir apparent said the foreign troops that came to the region after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait will not stay in the region after their mission is accomplished. His highness expressed regret over the positions adopted by certain Arab states on the Gulf crisis and said those positions have harmed the Gulf peoples, despite the previous support given by the Gulf states [to those countries].

His highness added that the Gulf region will never be secure or stable unless the [word indistinct] surrounding countries decide to get rid of the mass destruction weapons and set up a regional cooperation system amongst themselves by connecting their common interests.

His Highness Shaykh Hamad urged the Gulf states to introduce national programs for [military] training. He said: We in Bahrain have intensified such a program for the citizens. He pointed out that the Amiri Air Force has very highly qualified personnel who do their jobs perfectly well, especially in maintaining the F-16 aircraft. He added that maintenance is carried out by Bahrainis.

His highness said soldiers from the Bahraini Defense Force are currently stationed on the front with the GCC's Peninsula Shield troops. He noted that the State of Bahrain is deploying all its resources, land, sea, and air, to defend the region.

Regarding the fears the Iraqi regime is trying to arouse among the peoples of the region by threatening to use chemical weapons, his highness explained that the land, sea, and air defense measures taken by the states of the region are a deterrent and will defend the citizens in any emergency. He said the Iraqi president can be sure that, if he uses these weapons, he will be confronted with all means of deterrence available in the region.

He said the Kuwaiti people's rejection of occupation has disappointed the Iraqi leadership, which had the illusion that some Kuwaiti citizens would welcome the invasion forces. His highness hailed the cohesion between the people and leadership in Kuwait. He said: What happened in Kuwait is worthy of all praise, where the people of Kuwait courageously and sincerely stood by their homeland and leadership.

Says War With Iraq Has Started

JN0610113190 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 6 Oct 90

[Text] Manama, 5 Oct (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Hamad Ibn-'Isa Al Khalifah, Bahraini heir apparent and commander in chief of the Defense Force, has said that with the aggression against the State of Kuwait on 2 August, the war has already started

He was speaking during a tour of and meetings with members of some Defense Force units today. That war has started is a clear, bright fact, he said, and those who ignore it do not realize the essence of the situation and do not, consequently, fit as reliable sides to any negotiations or peaceful initiatives.

Accepting peace and peaceful solutions is basically the responsibility of the party that started the war, and the logic of peace simply means return to the normal and peaceful pre-invasion situation, with the State of Kuwait having its entity and legitimate government. This is the core of all resolutions adopted by the Arab League, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the Security Council in reflection of the international legitimacy, he said.

The Bahraini heir apparent said that if this logic of peace is accepted, the security and peace of the region and the entire world will be safeguarded. If, on the other hand, the aggressor insists on its aggression on Kuwait, then it means it is automatically insisting on its continuation of the state of war with the states of the region and the world, of which Kuwait is an integral part,

Hence, his highness asserted, it is not accurate to say that war will break out, because it has already broken out with the occupation of Kuwait and the daily liquidation of its entity. The truth is that the war will continue until the aggression is deterred. It was not possible to deter the aggression when it took place because it came as a surprise.

What happened and is happening now, he added, is preparation to deter the aggression if it is not deterred by itself. We may consider this, he said, as confrontation of the declared war in order to achieve peace, which is advocated by the teachings of our religion and our genuine Arab values with a view to enhancing peace and stability in the region and protecting the civilized achievements that clearly reflect the justice we are looking for.

Defense Minister Confers With Pakistani Team

JN0510113690 Manama WAKH in English 1538 GMT 4 Oct 90

[Text] Manama, Oct 4 (GNA) Bahraini Defence Minister and Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Force Major General Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Ahmad Al Khalifah met here today with a Pakistan military delegation led by Major General Mansur ul Haq, currently visiting Bahrain.

Bilateral cooperation and the current developments in the Gulf arena, were discussed during the meeting.

Present at the meeting were Pakistani charge d'affaires to Bahrain Amanullah Larik. [name as received]

UK Minister of State Arrives in Manama

JN0710151690 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Oct 90

[Text] Manama, 7 Oct (WAKH)—Archie Hamilton, British minister of state for the Armed Forces, arrived in Manama this afternoon on a visit to Bahrain to hold talks with senior Bahraini officials on the latest developments in the region as well as issues of common interest.

He was received upon arrival by Defense Minister Major General Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Ahmad Al Khalifah, Chief of Staff Brigadier General Shaykh 'Abdallah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, the British ambassador to Bahrain, the aides of the chief of staff, and a number of senior Defense Force officers.

Amir Phones Kuwaiti Amir on 'Vicious' Invasion

JN0610182090 Manama WAKH in English 1512 GMT 6 Oct 90

[Text] Manama, Oct 6 (GNA)—H.H. [His Highness] the Amir of Bahrain telephoned H.H. the amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah on the occasion of returning to his residence in Saudi Arabia from the United States, where he delivered his country's speech before the UN General Assembly and met with U.S. President George Bush.

H.H. the amir of Bahrain expressed his confidence to H.H. Shaykh Jabir that international consensus on Iraqi vicious invasion on Kuwait, would impel the attacker to withdraw its forces from Kuwait unconditionally and restore the Kuwaiti legitimacy headed by H.H. Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

H.H the amir also highlighted the warm welcome by the UN General Assembly members to H.H. Shaykh Jabir while delivering his speech, which reflected the world consensus on supporting the State of Kuwait.

Kuwait

Dutch, Other Ambassadors to Leave Country

LD0810121790 Hilversum International Service in English 1130 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] Netherlands Foreign Minister Hans Van den Broek has announced that the Dutch ambassador to Kuwait, Jupp Veling, has received permission to leave the embassy. The ambassador will probably depart for Baghdad on Tuesday. Most of the other EC countries will probably also let their ambassadors leave Kuwait insofar as they haven't already done so. Officially the embassies will not be shut down, the staff are merely leaving. There are five Dutch nationals still in Kuwait. Their interests will be looked after by those EC embassies which are still being manned. Minister Van den Broek spoke in Venice where the EC foreign ministers are also having a meeting. There he again mentioned the possibility of military action against Iraq. But first, the minister said, it must be determined over a period of several weeks if the economic sanctions have had any result.

Amir Issues Decree on 'Stolen' Banknotes

LD0710231590 London KUNA in Arabic 1317 GMT 7 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Al-Ta'if 7 Oct (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah today issued a decree on noncommitment to reimbursing the value of the banknotes stolen from the safes of the Kuwaiti central bank.

The decree specifies in its first article that the Central Bank of Kuwait is not committed to reimbursing the printed banknotes, deposited in its safes, which were stolen and put into circulation by the Iraqi occupation authorities. [passage omitted]

UN Envoy Says Demographic Changes 'Escalating'

LD0510161890 London KUNA in Arabic 1530 GMT 5 Oct 90

[text] United Nations, 5 Oct (KUNA)—Kuwait has accused the Iraqi occupation authorities of escalating the campaign aimed at changing the demographic composition of occupied Kuwait.

Muhammad Abu al-Hasan, Kuwait's permanent delegate to the United Nations, said in a message to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar last night that the occupation forces have intensified the operation of expelling Kuwaiti citizens from their homes and replacing them with Iraqi families in various regions of occupied Kuwait. He drew the attention of the international community to the seriousness of these crimes, and confirmed that the Kuwaiti Government considers "all the measures taken by the occupation forces" as null and void. The following is the text of the message:

Your Excellency UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar: Greetings. On the instructions of my government, I would like to inform Your Excellency of the following:

The invading Iraqi authorities have escalated their campaign which is aimed at changing the demographic composition of Kuwait by intensifying the operation of expelling Kuwaiti citizens from their homes and replacing them with families brought in from Iraq in various parts of Kuwait. These authorities have also seized by force some homes which were under construction, belonging to the Kuwaiti General Authority for Housing, part of the Kuwaiti Housing Ministry, and have housed Iraqi immigrants in them. There are more than 1,500 in the of al-Qarin, al-Dahr, al-Funtas, and al-Jahra regions, which are new residential areas to implement the General Authority for Housing plans. Several houses in other regions, such as al-'Ardhiyah, al-Rabiyah, and al-Salbiyah were also seized.

The Kuwaiti Government, while alerting the international community to these crimes which are aimed at changing the demographic composition of Kuwait and the escalating attacks on the most basic human rights of the Kuwaiti citizens, is a flagrant and open contravention of the fourth Geneva convention on the protection of civilians during wartime, confirms the invalidity of all the measures taken by the occupation forces and that they have no legal consequences. It also confirms the rights granted by international law and international accords pertaining to Kuwaiti citizens which were stipulated in all Security Council resolutions since 2 August 1990. I would be grateful if you distribute this message as a Security Council document.

Please accept my highest esteem,
Permanent delegate
Muhammad Abdallah Abu al-Hasan

Foreign Minister Says Saddam Must Obey UN

LD0610220790 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1935 GMT 6 Oct 90

[From the "State of Kuwait Television Message" program]

[Text] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister [of Kuwait], said that the president of the Iraqi regime must comply with the UN decisions, otherwise the international community has open options to force Iraq to respect its decisions.

He further said in a statement published in London yesterday that the Iraqi regime president insists on shedding the blood of the people of Kuwait and violating their sanctities. He considers the Iraqi claims regarding the borders as blackmail rejected by international law and the UN Charter. He stressed that the Arab solution to the crisis coincides with the UN solution when it comes to implementing precise resolutions, i.e. complete Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of legitimacy.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir further said that through diplomatic channels French officials have affirmed that what was tabled by French President Francois Mitterrand was carrying out the UN resolutions. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad pointed out that the Kuwaiti people, without exception, are on the side of the one unified position: the complete withdrawal of Iraq and the restoration of full and undiminished legitimacy.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad on the other hand underlined the defeatist positions of some Arab states toward the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, saying: Some Arab states are tearing up pacts and conventions by supporting the policy of Saddam Husayn, and one cannot back the executioner against the victim. He stressed that these states must persuade their ally Saddam to withdraw from Kuwait and carry out the UN resolutions.

He further said that claims by Saddam Husayn regarding Islam and pan-Arabism would not distort our vision of Islam or pan-Arabism. We are Muslims and Arabs and will remain so, and these positions will only add to our determination.

Amir, Prime Minister Confer With French Envoy

LD0610165590 London KUNA in Arabic 1405 GMT 6 Oct 90

[Text] Al-Ta'if, 6 Oct (KUNA)—A French envoy conferred here today with Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and told him of France's commitment to the UN Security Council resolutions on the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

A Kuwaiti official communique said that the envoy, Jean Bresso, an official with ambassadorial rank at the French Foreign Ministry, "conveyed France's firm stance on UN Security Council resolutions and examined relations between the two countries with His Royal Highness the amir." The communique did not, however, give any more details on matters discussed at the meeting which was attended by Shaykh Nasir al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti minister of state for foreign affairs; and 'Abd al-Rahman Salim al-Attiqi, advisor at His Royal Highness's office.

Bresso later met with His Royal Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister. No official details have however yet be given about the talks at the meeting which was attended by the Kuwaiti minister of state for foreign affairs.

Oman

Deputy Prime Minister Returns From Moscow

JN0710182190 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0645 GMT 6 Oct 90

[Text] Muscat, 6 Oct (WAKH)—Qays Ibn-'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs, returned to Muscat last night from Moscow after a 3-day official visit to the Soviet Union. During his visit he conveyed an oral message from His Majesty Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id of Oman to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. He also met with a number of Soviet officials.

Talks during the visit centered on bilateral relations and ways of developing and bolstering them in the future, especially economic and trade relations.

Japanese Prime Minister Kaifu Arrives on Visit

JN0710152490 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Oct 90

[Excerpt] His Excellency Toshiki Kaifu, Japan's prime minister, this evening arrived in the country at head of a high-level delegation on an official two-day visit to the Sultanate. He was received upon arrival at Salalah Civilian Airport by His Highness Thuwayni Bin-Shihab, his majesty the sultan's personal representative. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Baghdad Reports Americans Killed in Explosion

JN0710115790 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1145 GMT 7 Oct 90

[Text] Arrivals from the State of Qatar have said that Doha international airport was the scene, during the past few days, of the explosion of an American jumbo aircraft. They added that 12 Americans were killed and others were wounded in the incident.

In statements to the newspaper AL-THAWRAH published today, the arrivals said that the Qatari authorities were still imposing a news blackout on the cause of the explosion of the American aircraft and that they were keeping the bodies of the dead in special refrigerators. They added that the authorities have not sent the bodies to their relatives in the United States in order to prevent the incident from becoming known and also because the incident would arouse the indignation of the American people against President Bush because of the U.S. troops' presence in the Arabian Gulf.

Government Cancels Debts of 10 Countries

NC0710173890 Paris AFP in English 1111 GMT 7 Oct 90

[Text] Doha, Oct 7 (AFP)—The oil-rich Gulf state of Qatar announced Sunday that it had written off the debts of 10 Arab and African countries, including Egypt and Syria, as part of efforts to promote Third World growth.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman, quoted by the Qatar News Agency, said Morocco, Tunisia, Mauritania, Somalia, Guinea, Uganda, Cameroon and Mali would also benefit from the measure, which annuls all debt obligations.

He gave no details on the amount that had been owed by the 10 countries.

Qatar's foreign minister, Mubarak Bin-'Ali al-Khatir, told the United Nations General Assembly Friday that his country had decided to cancel the debts of several countries, but did not name them.

He said the measure was a contribution to U.N. efforts to increase economic growth among developing countries.

The emir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, had announced a similar move to the General Assembly on September 27, saying that his country would write off the interest on credits to poor nations to ease their debt burden.

The Iraqi News Agency Saturday described Shaykh Jabir's measure as illegal, saying that the goods and property in Kuwait had "returned to Iraq and no country but Iraq has the right to dispose of it."

Shaykh Jabir fled into exile in Saudi Arabia when Iraq invaded Kuwait on August 2.

Foreign Minister Addresses UNGA on Gulf Crisis

JN0610104290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0535 GMT 6 Oct 90

[Excerpt] United Nations, 5 Oct (WAKH)—Qatari Foreign Minister Mubarak 'Ali al-Khatir has stressed that Iraq's invasion of Kuwait was a grave development that undermined the concept of Arab accord and added yet another problem to those which the Arab countries had jointly been trying to solve. The invasion, moreover, is a violation of the international laws and norms and the charters of the United Nations and the Arab League, he said.

In his speech to the 45th session of the UN General Assembly [UNGA] today, Mr. al-Khatir said Iraq's act of aggression against Kuwait has upset the acceptable conceptions regarding the structure of world community and has taken the world back to very ancient times that had been gone forever.

He praised the world's firm position against this aggression and said it represents a spotlight in the middle of the total darkness that has engulfed our region and the world since 2 August. This prompt, effective reaction to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait also promises a new world order in which contradictions disappear, polarization ends, and all world nations cooperate to achieve world peace and security.

The Qatari foreign minister said the states of our region exercised their legitimate right to take all measures that would defend their sovereignty and security in line with the UN Charter. He said that the Arab resolutions on Iraq's invasion of Kuwait were identical to those of the Security Council's. [passage omitted]

Paper Supports Using Force Against Iraq

JN0510114090 Manama WAKH in English 1515 GMT 4 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Manama, Oct 4 (GNA)—[passage omitted] Qatari Arabic daily 'AL-RAYAH' welcomed in an editorial today the intention by the U.S. Administration to ask the Security Council to adopt a new resolution allowing for the use of military force against Iraq to force it to pull out from Kuwait. The paper said the new American move would keep the momentum of the international pressure and consolidate the present alliance against Iraq.

The paper said it was surprising that several influential capitals which confronted the crisis firmly when it erupted have now started talking about peacful means to settle the crisis knowing that the only language understood by the Iraqi dictator was the use of force. The Iraqi regime is gambling on time to seek deviate the world opinion from the core issue which is the occupation of Kuwait by indulging in marginal issues to invest this valuable time in consolidating its occupation of Kuwait through various oppressive practices, the paper said.

Concluding, the paper underlined that the military option remained the most viable to force the Iraqi dictator to pull out from Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Troops Deploy Along Yemeni Border

NC0810203190 Paris AFP in English 2026 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] Riyadh, Oct 8 (AFP)—Saudi troops are now deployed along the Saudi-Yemeni boarder in southern Saudi Arabia, Defense Minister Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz revealed here Monday.

It was the first such disclosure by Saudi authorities, who have made no secret of their annoyance with what they perceive to be Yemeni sympathy for Iraq in the current Gulf crisis.

Prince Sultan, speaking during a meeting of the Saudi cabinet, hailed "the high level and the competence displayed by Saudi troops as they took up positions on the southern border of the country."

Government Comments on Al-Aqsa Violence

LD0910001390 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2215 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] Riyadh, 8 Oct (SPA)—The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has expressed its condemnation and denunciation of today's brutal and savage attack against the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque and the sons of the Palestinian people, aimed at violating the sanctity of al-Aqsa Mosque and at obliterating the Palestinian identity.

This came in a statement made to SPA today by a responsible source which added: "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has followed with great concern and with the utmost attention reports of the crime committed today by the Israeli occupation troops against the Palestinian citizens in Jerusalem, which led to the martyrdom of over twenty Palestinian citizens and the wounding of hundreds."

The source stated that this attack constituted a blatant defiance to Muslim public opinion and a disdain for the religious sites which revealed laws and international laws and conventions have urged to respect, not desecrate, not violate, and not expose to the dangers of challenges—whatever their form or direction.

The responsible source stressed that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia totally rejects these criminal acts and considers them a serious offense to the feelings of millions of Muslims who have a close organic link with al-Aqsa Mosque, in addition to the fact that the Kingdom sees in these practices an attack on the Islamic faith by the Israeli occupation authorities.

The source reiterated the stand of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the Palestinian people, their just cause, and their legitimate struggle to recover their territory and establish their independent state.

The source also said that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia exhorts the Islamic and Arab nation and the international community, peoples, and governments to stand with all their means and capabilities by the Palestinian people, to oppose the odious Israeli practices against our Palestinian brethren in the occupied Arab territories, and to take action to free them from injustice and protect them from continuous Israeli aggression.

The source also honored the Palestinian martyrs who have met their Lord while defending their territory and protecting the Islamic sanctities.

Japan's Kaifu Arrives in Jeddah 6 Oct

LD0610132790 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 6 Oct. (SPA)—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu arrived in Jeddah at 1400 today on a visit to Saudi Arabia.

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, was awaiting his arrival at King 'Abd al-'Aziz International Airport. [passage omitted]

Supports Saudi Policy

LD0610162890 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Oct 90

[Text] Riyadh, 6 Oct (SPA)—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu affirmed his country's support for the measures taken by King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, servant of the two holy mosques, to defend the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its territory and borders against Iraqi threats.

He said that despite the fact that the Middle East and the Arab Gulf region in particular are now facing considerable threats, the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, led by King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, servant of the two holy mosques, has exerted and continues to exert serious efforts to restore peace in the region.

In a press statement published here today, Mr. Kaifu said that Japan and the Kingdom have a long history of outstanding relations in the economic and other domains. Japan, he said, is bracing itself for becoming a major trade partner with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Discusses Gulf With King

OW0710041390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0335 GMT 7 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Jeddah, Oct. 6 (KYODO)—Saudi Arabia's King Fahd and Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Saturday renewed their demand for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and called for peaceful settlement to the Persian Gulf crisis, a Japanese spokesman said.

King Fahd told Kaifu that he is taking a wait-and-see stance on the effect of U.N.-imposed economic sanctions aimed at forcing Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

In the meantime, Fahd was quoted as saying that he would like to see Japan provide aid to developing countries that have dispatched troops to help defend his country from possible Iraqi attack.

The United Nations' trade embargo against Iraq is the most complete history has ever seen, Fahd told Kaifu in the hourlong talks at his palace.

"We are waiting a little longer to see their effect," he was quoted as saying.

Fahd's remarks were in contrast to reports earlier in the week that the Saudi Arabian king was dubious about the effectiveness of U.N. efforts to bring the Gulf crisis to a close.

Fahd reportedly told French President Francois Mitterrand two days earlier that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn did not appear to be heeding the sanctions.

Kaifu was the second leader of a major economic power to meet with Fahd since Iraqi troops rolled across the Kuwaiti border on August 2.

Fahd agreed with Kaifu that a peaceful solution is required, the Japanese official said in a briefing to reporters. "No one wants war," the king was quoted as saying.

Kaifu told Fahd that there must be no compromise in demands for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and the return of the legitimate Kuwaiti Government.

Fahd expressed appreciation for Japan's pledge of 2 billion dollars in financial assistance to multinational forces in the Gulf and another 2 billion dollars in economic assistance to countries severely affected by the international economic sanctions against Iraq.

The Saudi Arabian king urged Kaifu to allocate a portion of the money to developing nations that have supplied troops to help protect Saudi Arabia, the official said.

He mentioned by name Bangladesh, Egypt, Morocco, Pakistan, and Syria, the official said.

Prior to arriving in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah which is Saudi Arabia's administrative capital, Kaifu visited Egypt, Jordan and Turkey and pledged a total of 600 million dollars in soft loans in meetings with leaders of the three countries.

The emergency loans are aimed at helping mitigate the effects of economic sanctions against Iraq on neighboring countries hit hardest.

Allocation of most of the remainder of Japan's 2 billion dollar aid pledge is expected to be disbursed in consultation with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other international organizations, Japanese officials said.

Fahd praised Japan's contributions to resolving the Gulf crisis as humanitarian, and said it would help Japan consolidate its influence in the international community.

In addition to pledging 4 billion dollars in aid and support for the multilateral forces deployed in Gulf region, Kaifu has also dispatched medical personnel to Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

Fahd told Kaifu that he hoped to accept an invitation to visit Japan after peace is restored in the region.

Kaifu mentioned oil in general terms in the discussion, delayed by four hours, the official said.

The Japanese spokesman said the Saudi Arabian side offered no explanation for the delay, but he did not think it was unusual for King Fahd to keep his guest waiting.

Kaifu is the second Japanese prime minister to visit Saudi Arabia, a major supplier of oil to Japan which depends on imports for almost all of its oil needs. Then Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda visited here in 1978.

Kaifu attended a supper with Crown Prince 'Abdallah following the meeting with the king.

He was to hold more substantial talks with 'Abdallah on Sunday prior to departing for Oman, the fifth and last stop on his Mideast tour. Kaifu heads for home on Monday.

Meets With Deputy Prime Minister

LD0710123590 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Oct 90

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, and Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu held talks today at the royal court in al-Salam Palace, Jeddah.

The session was attended on the Saudi side by Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy; Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources and acting planning minister; engineer 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Zamil, minister of industry and electricity; His Royal Highness Prince Turki Bin Abdallah Bin Muhammad Al Sa'ud, and 'Abd al-Muhsin Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Tuwayjari, advisors to the crown prince; and also the Saudi ambassador to Tokyo, Fawzi 'Abd-al-Majid Shobokshi.

The session was attended on the Japanese side by the delegation accompanying the prime minister and the Japanese ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

During the session they reviewed the bilateral relations; the current situation in the Arabian Gulf region following the Iraqi invasion of fraternal Kuwait; and issues of mutual interest.

Talks With Ministers

LD0710124590 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Oct 90

[Text] Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, who is currently visiting Saudi Arabia, received today at his residence in Jeddah Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy; Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, and acting minister of planning; and engineer 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Zamil, minister of industry and electricity.

During the meeting they discussed bilateral cooperation and means for its consolidation in all fields.

Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, Hisham Nazir, and engineer 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Zamil later held a meeting today with the official delegation acompanying the Japanese prime minister.

During the meeting they discussed means to consolidate and bolster the cooperation between the two countries in all fields, especally the economic field.

Leaves 7 Oct

LD0710135490 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1320 GMT 7 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 7 Oct (SPA)—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu left Jeddah this afternoon at the end of his visit to the Kingdom.

He was seen off at King 'Abd Al-'Aziz international airport by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and chief of the National Guard. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Zayid Announces Death of Vice President

JN0810110790 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Statement issued by the office of Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan al-Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates—date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The office of his highness the president announces to the people of the United Arab Emirates and the sons of the Arab and Islamic nation the death of His Highness Rashid Bin-Sa'id Al Maktum, vice president, prime minister, and Dubai ruler, who passed away yesterday evening, Sunday, 18 Rabi' Awwal 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 7 October 1990 after he devoted great efforts to his homeland and nation and after a life full of great deeds and achievements.

Yemen

Deported Diplomats Return Home From Riyadh

JN0510210490 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Oct 90

[Text] A number of the Yemeni diplomats working at our country's embassy in Riyadh returned to Sanna this evening as a result of the recent Saudi measures to deport most Yemeni diplomats from Saudi Arabia. They were received at the airport by Deputy Foreign Minister brother Dr. Sha'i' Muhsin.

Minister Addresses UN General Assembly 4 Oct

JN0510111990 Manama WAKH in English 1522 GMT 4 Oct 90

[Text] United Nations, Oct 4 (GNA)—The United Arab Emirates (UAE) expressed its solidarity with sisterly Kuwait and called upon the international community to take decisive measures against Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

"The aggression against Kuwait is a dangerous precedent in international relations and should be confronted decisively. Otherwise the security and existence of small states will be vulnerable," UAE Minister of State Rashid 'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi told the U.N. General Assembly yesterday.

Addressing the assembly, 'Abdallah said that the arguments used by Iraq to justify its brutal aggression against kuwait were legally, historically and morally invalid.

He paid tribute to the United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar for his constructive role in international affairs to enhance the organisation's performance.

"Due to de Cuellar's tireless efforts, the United Nations has become an effective centre of agreements and decisions and barrier against chaos in international relations," he noted.

'Abdallah affirmed the UAE's belief that the international community which exhibited unity against the Iraqi invasion was "duty bound" to exercise the same authority against the aggression and occupation carried out by Israel in Palestine and all other Arab lands.

He said the Lebanese crisis was a result of the Israeli politics of aggression and expansion and required a united international stand to bring Lebanon "out of its ordeal".

'Abdallah expressed UAE's readiness as always to take part in the international efforts to alleviate damages incurred by the developing countries as a result of the Gulf crisis.

"My country has earmarked one billion dollars as a contribution towards the efforts aimed at reducing the burden on the world countries due to the Gulf crisis," he added.

Tariq 'Aziz Addresses UN General Assembly

JN0610083190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0710 GMT 6 Oct 90

[Text] New York, 6 Oct (INA)—Iraq has called on the international community to contain the situation in the Arabian Gulf in light of the American and Western military escalation in the region and to draw correct conclusions as this escalation is a renewal of the Western imperialist hegemony led by the United States. This was part of the speech of Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, that was delivered on his behalf by Iraq's deputy representative at the United Nations before the 45th regular session of the UN General Assembly.

Tariq 'Aziz condemned the unjust, unprecedented manner with which the Security Council adopted resolutions against Iraq under pressure from the United States and its Western allies. The deputy prime minister and foreign minister reiterated Iraq's peaceful position calling for solving all problems in the region in a just way that will guarantee a final solution for the Palestine question that is in harmony with the resolutions issued by the Security Council and the United Nations, and guarantee a solution to all suspended problems in the region, affirming, at the same time, Iraq's historical right to its territory and waters and nonrelinquishment of any of these rights under pressure and threat of aggresion.

The following is the text of the speech:

Mr. Chairman: It pleases me as well as the delegation of my country to congratulate you on your election as the chairman of the current session of the General Assembly. On this occasion, I affirm our complete readiness and sincere desire to cooperate with you to render your mission a success.

The recent events that took place in the region have brought up many essential issues which the international community, particularly the Third World countries, should analyze deeply and from which they should draw the correct conclusion, because these events and the behavior of the United States and its Western allies vis-a-vis these events undoubtedly indicate that our world is moving toward a new era. Some imagine that this era will open horizons before world nations, particularly the Arab nation and the Third World nations, for conditions that are better than the conditions of the cold war. However, the bitter fact is that this new age is an age of renewing the Western imperialism led by the United States that is accompanied with other major powers' silence sometimes and participation at other times. The Western imperialist alliance led by the United States is now leading a large-scale, worldwide deception campaign involving all the capabilities of the American and Western political and media machine together with the war machine to delude the world nations into believing that this alliance, which had a black history in dealing with the world causes, is today defending international law, the UN Charter, and what they call international order.

Regardless of the different opinions with regard to the issue of Kuwait, we should not ignore the essential issues which the United States and its allies are trying to obliterate and cast doubts on.

The United States and its allies are arbitrarily and intentionally trying to obliterate the fact that the Kuwait issue has a history that goes back to the modern colonialist age, when Britain undertook to sever Kuwait from Iraq in 1913. All monarchist and republican regimes that ruled Iraq over 70 years have rejected this colonialist measure. The issue was also a source of dispute at the Arab League and at the United Nations in the sixties. The United States and its Western allies are deliberately concealing the developments and events that led to the current situation. Several months before 2 August, they had started a large-scale campaign of plotting, defamation, and blockade against Iraq. Their sanctions included the prevention of food exports to Iraq and covered scientific and technological aspects.

On 4 September 1990, I sent a letter to the foreign ministers of world nations explaining the history of this issue and these developments. Therefore, I will not discuss it now.

The events took place in the Arab region, which has had its own mechanisms and methods of addressing its problems for scores of years. The events started on 2 August 1990. On 3 August, His Majesty King Husayn sought to hold a mini-summit in Jeddah on 4 or 5 August among Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Yemen, and Jordan to address the problem through the familiar mechanisms amd methods. But the Arab country that was supposed to hold the meeting—Saudi Arabia—avoided the meeting after it had accepted it.

Two days after the scheduled date of the meeting, the U.S. forces landed in the Arabian Peninsula. This clearly shows that the United States was the side that put the Arab mechanisms out of action and decided to control the political situation on its own. One day after its troops landed in the Arabian Peninsula, it pushed its men in the region to hold a meeting in Cairo, not to discuss the issue and the ways by which Arab problems are usually solved, but to obtain support from its allies for the U.S. occupation and control of the political situation. This led to a sharp division among the Arab governments. Since then, some sincere Arab parties have been seeking a return to the Arab mechanisms and methods for solving the issue, but the United States is suppressing and defaming these attempts, threatening the leaders that make them, and using the Security Council as an instrument to thwart every earnest Arab endeavor.

This fact sheds light on what took place and what is taking place in the Security Council. Since the first day of the events, the United States called on the Security Council to hold an urgent session and placed before the Council a resolution based on chapter seven [of the UN Charter]. And, for the first time in the history of the Security Council, the Council did not give enough time for the participation of the foreign minister of the concerned country in the issue. Neither did the Council give an opportunity to Arab representatives who could have participated with responsibility to take part in the discussion. America called for the meeting at 0445 New York local time, on 2 August. It presented a draft resolution and insisted on adopting it within hours. It then went on to build the subsequent political activity on the basis of this draft resolution, although it knew that issuing a resolution of this kind and in this hasty manner would impede the possibilities for a serious and responsible search for appropriate solutions to the issue, particularly by the Arab side.

It is very regrettable that other international parties followed this method which obstructed and is still obstructing the responsible course for tackling issues. Resolution No. 660 is unprecedented in the history of the Security Council both in terms of the speed with which it was adopted, and in the method of its discussion, and also in terms of jumping directly to chapter seven in the first hours of the events.

And, in a method unprecedented in the history of the United Nations, the United States and its Western allies pushed the Security Council into adopting a series of consecutive resolutions. Each of these resolutions further complicated and aggravated the situation, and blocked the responsible efforts to find a solution. In addition to this premeditated political hysteria on the side of the United States and its allies, they mobilized in the region—after the events—fleets, planes, and ground forces in a manner unprecedented in contemporary history. They have placed the entire region, in fact, the entire world, on the brink of a devastating war.

We should strongly inquire through a review of events in contemporary history: Have the United States and its Western allies adopted this position in defense of international law, the charter, and the people's just rights? If the United States and its allies had this principled firmness—as they claim now—why are the rest of these problems and crises in the world still unresolved, and why do we come here every year to complain about the continuation of these problems and crises? To whom did we address our problems? Did we not address them to America and its allies whose acts and policies were the reason behind the problems and crises and behind the procrastination in tackling them? Are they not the ones who used the veto against the resolutions which we presented to the Security Council in order to protect the violations practiced by their allies in Tel Aviv and Pretoria? Are they not the ones who dealt with contempt with the resolutions which we sometimes succeeded in endorsing at the General Assembly where the Third World countries constitute the vast majority?

Why have the issues of Palestine, the Middle East, and Lebanon remained unresolved to date? What has happened to the 166 Security Council resolutions on those issues? And why does Israel continue its occupation of the Arab territories and impudently announce that these territories are part of Israel's land—calling the West Bank Judea and Samaria, and declaring occupied Jerusalem as its eternal capital before the eyes and ears of those who had not shown firmness regarding the implementation of Security Council resolutions except after the Council adopted its known resolutions after the events of 2 August 1990?

The record of the United Nations is full of condemnation of the U.S policy, and we all know the position of the United States and its allies, especially Britain, toward the issues of independence, racial discrimination, equitable economic relations, and other issues that are brought up every year here at the General Assembly. The representatives of the United States and the West stand against these issues by all means, and they obstruct our sincere efforts to address them in line with international law, the UN Charter, and the standards of justice and equality.

The United States used its veto 81 times to block the adoption of resolutions by the Council, most of which concerned the rights of the Palestinian people, the Israeli acts of aggression against the Palestinian people and the neighboring Arab countries, and about South Africa. This year alone the United States used the veto seven times to oppose draft resolutions on the Palestine question.

The resolutions issued by the Security Council on the Palestine question, the Middle East, and Lebanon, which call for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the Palestinian and Arab territories they are occupying, have not been implemented to date, nor have 44 other resolutions on Lebanon adopted since 1978 been implemented. Israel has been occupying Lebanon since 1982.

The UN General Assembly, for its part, has issued more than 400 resolutions on the Palestine question and the Middle East, with the United States opposing most of them. These resolutions, especially those calling for enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights, have not been implemented because the United States and Israel refuse to acknowledge the Palestinian people's right to self-determination—a right enjoyed by all world nations.

There are also many resolutions adopted by the UN specialized agencies on the rights of the Palestinian people and the Middle East issue. Because of the U.S. opposition of these resolutions, Israel ignored them as it did those of the Security Council and the General Assembly. We mention in particular the resolutions of UNESCO, the International Labor Organization, the World Health Organization, and the International Civil Aviation Organization.

At this particular period of time we are witnessing a new campaign of settlement colonialism, represented by the Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union and East European countries aimed at consecrating the Zionist occupation of the Palestinian and Arab territories and establishing the so-called Greater Israel.

The countries sponsoring this campaign under the pretext of defending human rights and the right to emigrate refuse to allow the Palestinian people to exercise these rights and the right to return to their homeland, although several UN resolutions recognizing the right to repatriation have been adopted since 1948 but remained unimplemented up to the present day. Now Zionist emigration is taking place at the expense of this Palestinian right and in order to force the remaining Palestinian people out of their land.

We the Arabs and world nations should not draw the wrong conclusions. The United States and its Western allies, which raised this clamor over the recent resolutions they imposed in the Security Council, are not now in a stage of an awakening of conscience, but are pushing the world, in the context of one of the most dangerous and malicious campaigns of delusion known in history, into a new imperialist era, taking advantage of the international balance brought about following the events in the Soviet Union and East Europe to entrench the pillars of this new imperialist system before the world nations wake up from the great shock and search for the methods with which they can restore balance in a manner that safeguards their independence and provides for world relations based on justice.

The rulers of the United States and its Western allies are not defending international law and charter; they, as U.S. President George Bush said, are defending the capitalist financial system, one of the main pillars of which was the former Kuwaiti regime's investments which amounted to more than $200 billion. They are seeking to gain control over the oil reserves in the Gulf so as to have a free hand in manipulating the needs of the world, especially the needs of the people of the Third World, for this important commodity. The United States is seeking, in a dangerously coercive manner, to impose its leadership over the world, as was disclosed by President George Bush in his speech before the Congress on 11 September 1990 when he said: The American objectives in the Gulf are clear and known...America and the world must defend common vital interests...and in the pursuit of these goals, the United States should fear nothing. He emphasized that the United States antedated events and will survive them.

The United States is raising artificial fears about Iraqi control over 20 percent of the oil reserves while it and its Western allies were quite happy when those reserves were under the control of a handful of shaykhs. The true reason behind this fear-raising operation is that Iraq, although an oil-producing country, considers itself in reality and principle a member of the Third World, sharing its feelings, showing solidarity with it, and adhering to its causes.

In the seventies, before the war with Iran, Iraq provided more than 9 billion dollars in aid to some African, Asian, and Latin American countries.

This is the reason. They are fighting the principle of an independent country controlling its national resources that were stolen by force and conspiracy during the era of colonization. They are fighting against the use of these resources for true self- development and in order that this independent country may not effectively provide fair assistance to its brothers in the Arab countries and the Third World as it did until 1979. When Iraq announced on 10 September its readiness to provide free oil to the Third World countries, the United States and its allies put their political and military machine on a state of alert to terrorize those countries so that they cannot transport the oil. The Third World countries are now forced to pay twice as much for oil as they used to pay a few weeks ago.

The United States, which until a few weeks back had been resisting a natural increase in the price of oil in a manner that creates balance between supply and demand, is now eager to maintain the high price of oil because it is blackmailing its oil-producing allies into using the additional revenues to cover the heavy financial cost of its military campaign against Iraq.

We must thoroughly contemplate the generosity shown by the United States, the big capitalist countries, and the Arab capitalist countries in their spending on the military campaign against Iraq. Approximately 20 billion dollars have been collected within weeks to finance the campaign. We must ask: Were these countries really generous in collecting only a few million dollars to relieve those dying of famine in Africa, the millions of refugees in Afghanistan and Cambodia, and the Palestinian refugees that Israel expelled and is expelling from their lands?

And when were these countries so generous in tackling the debt issues that are crushing the Third World nations in Latin America, Africa, and Asia? And when were they so generous in helping the Middle East countries that are suffering from strangling economic crises? One of these Middle East countries is participating in the American campaign while hundreds of thousands of its citizens are living in graves because they have no hope of finding a house to live in.

The United States is not doing all this for the sake of the charter, international law, and human rights. America and its Western allies are seeking, through this military, political, and media campaign, to gain control over the oil wells and to impose imperialist political, economic, and military hegemony over the world and over the Third World countries in particular.

Therefore, the Third World countries should be cautious of being deluded by the campaign of deception now launched by American and Western imperialism. They should realize the essential facts in the situation and search for their real interests in what is taking place. And if any of these countries has an opinion on the issue of Kuwait, it must ponder and acquaint itself with the facts as they are, before adopting positions; they should not mix its motives with the real motives of America and its Western allies in their search for a cover for their deceptive campaign and imperialist objectives behind the military occupation of the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula.

Mr. Chairman: In light of what I have mentioned, a basic fact that cannot be ignored has emerged; namely, in the Middle East there are bitter and complicated issues that make it practically impossible to give preference to one issue over another. The whole region is seething with anger and teeming with explosive problems as it was before August 1990. A review of what was said from this platform by the representatives of the states of the region affirms this fact. Therefore, if the five permanent members of the Security Council and the Security Council as a whole are really interested in upholding the charter and international law and in establishing peace and justice in the region, the way to achieve these goals is well known.

President Saddam Husayn proposed on 12 August 1990 that all the issues in the region—Palestine, Lebanon, the Gulf and others—be considered on an equal footing and that the Security Council should seek to establish common principles and criteria to deal with these issues and apply these principles and criteria to all regional issues without ignoring the peculiarity and background of each one. Thus, it will actually be possible to establish justice and peace, resolve the intricate issues of the region, and make the people in the region feel that they can enjoy peace and have a future.

Several states expressed interest in these ideas, but America and Britain have sought to suppress any tendency to give them consideration. This indicates a bad intention and unwillingness to deal with the regional issues on an equitable basis. It is confirmation of insistence on pursuing a double-standard policy which was adopted by the United States and its allies in dealing with regional and world issues.

The free countries which truly believe in the Charter and international law and who sincerely seek peace are called on to firmly press for a comprehensive and just resolution of all regional issues.

At the beginning of Iraq's speech before the 45th ordinary session of the UN General Assembly, the Iraqi UN deputy representative presented an introduction in which he clarified that Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, was scheduled to deliver the speech. He referred to the position adopted by the American authorities as indicated in the foreign minister's letter to the UN secretary general on 23 September 1990, which was distributed as an official document at the UN headquarters.

As was customary in past years, Iraq extended a request to the American authorities asking for permission to allow a private plane carrying the foreign minister and the Iraqi delegation to land in New York, but these authorities rejected the request and suggested the use of commercial flights. This meant that the United States was determined to prevent Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz from coming to New York to participate in the UN General Assembly session, to explain Iraq's viewpoint on the events, and to talk with the various countries' representatives.

It is noteworthy that despite contacts between Iraq and the General Secretariat on the one hand and between the Secretariat and the American UN mission on the other hand, the General Secretariat did nothing to pressure the U.S. side into changing the measures which prevented the participation of the foreign minister.

Vessel Reportedly Fired on in Gulf of Oman

JN0810131190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1250 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Oct (INA)—It has been announced here that an Iraqi vessel has been harassed by foreign vessels in the Gulf of Oman.

INA has learned that at 0805 today U.S., Australian, and British naval ships fired warning shots at the front and middle of the Iraqi vessel Al-Wasiti after its crew refused to obey orders by those ships to stop for a search.

INA has also learned that a helicopter with 12 people, all British, on board landed on the front of the Iraqi vessel Al-Wasiti in an attempt to stop it by force. However, the vessel's captain and crew refused to obey the British force's orders and continued to sail.

Another force of nine Americans then boarded the vessel, held the vessel's crew, and asked for their official papers. It also searched the vessel by force while it continued to sail in the Gulf of Oman.

The Iraqi vessel Al-Wasiti continued on course toward its scheduled destination ignoring the harassments, provocations, and aggressions carried out by the new sea pirates.

'Aziz Says Bush Pledge Would Free Foreigners

JN0810215590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2102 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] Washington, 8 Oct (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today called on all parties to sit at the negotiating table to work out all the Mideast problems.

In a television interview screened by CNN, he said we have many problems in the region. They are substantial, difficult, and complex, and they existed prior to 2 August 1990. Prior to that date the region has been insecure and unstable.

He noted that Iraq came up with its known initiative of 12 August, envisaging a solution to all the problems of the region along the lines of UN Security Council resolutions, rather than addressing one issue to the exclusion of others.

He recalled that in 1967, Israel conquered Egypt, Jordan, the West Bank, and the Golan Heights, then annexed

Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, and yet the U.S. Administration never demanded that Israel first withdraw and then sit at the negotiating table.

Tariq 'Aziz noted that there are contentious issues in the Gulf, Palestine, and Lebanon, and all parties, each for reasons of its own, refuses to tackle them. Each actor in the region has his own perspective on this or that issue.

He charged that the United States is handling regional issues with discrimination, adding: You in the United States single out Kuwait and open the gates of hell before Iraq in the interest of a solution to this question, while in the meantime turning a blind eye to other issues which for decades have been the underlying causes of turbulence, instability, and troubles in the region.

Commenting on the economic embargo imposed on Iraq, Tariq 'Aziz said: We have to live. We have remained steadfast as one people for more than 5,000 years. We have rights to protect. We have to remain steadfast to realize the aims which we strongly believe to be legitimate. At the same time, we desire to establish normal, civilized relations with the rest of the world.

He pointed out that there are many countries which sympathize with Iraq and want to deal with it economically and commercially, but they are being threatened and bullied by the United States and other countries.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister added: The resolutions adopted by the Security Council under the pressure of the United States and its allies are meant to starve and humiliate the Iraqi people—something which we cannot accept, as an unyielding people.

He added: Our history goes back 5,000 years and our contribution to human civilization needs no clarification. Therefore, we will not beg just because the United States wants to punish Iraq and protect its allies—the shaykh and the amirs of the Arabian Peninsula.

Tariq 'Aziz reiterated Iraq's constant stance on the issue of the foreign nationals who are present in Iraq and Kuwait. He said: If Bush made an unequivocal pledge not to wage war on Iraq, there would be no problem, and everyone would be able to leave the country freely.

Government, Media React to Al-Aqsa Incident

Three-Day Mourning Declared

JN0910102490 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0940 GMT 9 Oct 90

[Statement issued by the Presidential Office]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Go ye forth, whether equipped lightly or heavily, and strive and struggle, with your goods and your persons, in the cause of God. That is best for you, if ye but knew. [Koranic verses] O lofty Iraqis, O sons of our glorious nation, O faithful mujahidin all over the world, the Zionist enemy has perpetrated another of its hideous crimes before the eyes and ears of the Arab and world public opinion, and killed with its vile bullets a large number of our steadfast people in holy Jerusalem and other areas in occupied Palestine. The enemy perpetrated part of this abominable crime inside the holy al-Aqsa Mosque without having any respect for the first of the two qiblas or for the third holiest mosque.

This heinous crime has shaken the very depth of the Iraqis and provoked the feelings of Arabs and Muslims everywhere. In order to express these noble feelings and to affirm our full solidarity with our people's Jihad in the occupied territories, it has been decided to declare as of today a three-day mourning period throughout Iraq in honor of the martyrs' souls.

[Signed] Ahmad Husayn, head of Presidential Office

'Crime Will Not Go Unpunished'

JN0910092990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 9 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Oct (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has called for Arab-Islamic action to wage the great battle until the liberation of Palestine. It warned that the crime that was perpetrated at the al-Aqsa Mosque yesterday will not go unpunished.

In its editorial today under the headline "The al-Aqsa Crime Will Not Go Unpunished," the paper says: Out of its full pan-Arab commitment that links between the American occupation of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and the Zionist occupation of Palestine, Iraq stands against this abominable crime, and reiterates the full linkage between the liberation of Jerusalem and the sanctities [in Saudi Arabia].

The paper notes that with this crime, the Arab nation, Muslims, and all world peoples have become fully aware that the Bush Administration uses international legitimacy as a tool to impose its hegemony over and fight the peoples who reject this hegemony. At the same time, the Bush Administration exploits this legitimacy as an umbrella to protect its fascist and racist tools.

The paper adds: We know that the Bush Administration will resort to bogus denunciation and condemnation in an attempt to avoid blame. However, this evasive method will not deceive the Arabs, who hold the Bush Administration responsible for this massacre, which enables Tel Aviv to continue with its occupation and to carry out daily bloody repressive actions against the Palestinians in the absence of effective international resolutions. The paper stresses that the al-Aqsa crime exposes new dimensions of the high pan-Arab treason that is committed by the agents Fahd, Husni, and their likes.

The paper warns that the traitors will not escape the masses' anger even if they hide behind verbal denunciations that are void of any essence or commitment. The paper says: The confrontation of the Zionist crime cannot take place through opening the region to the U.S.

forces that are basically entrusted with protecting Israel, but through waging struggle against the Zionist enemy and consecrating the nation's military, economic, and political resources in the battle for the liberation of Palestine.

The paper says: When the traitors bring the U.S. forces of occupation and dispatch their forces to the Zionist-American trench, the Zionist appetite for annexation and repression exposes itself and desecrates the al-Aqsa Mosque. In light of this, the murderer settlers and the occupation forces are encouraged by the treason of Fahd, Husni, and their likes to expose their fascist nature and to perpetrate a new massacre to be added to the Gaza, Kafr Qasim, Dayr Yasin, Sabra and Shatila, Qibyah, and other massacres.

The paper wonders: Where is the legitimacy that Washington was so concerned over that it paralyzed all its resolutions on Palestine? The paper stresses: After the Zionists thought that the American occupation of the sanctities in Najd and Hejaz and the desecration of Mecca and the tomb of the prophet, may God's peace and blessing be upon him, provide them with a golden opportunity to entrench their occupation of Jerusalem and enable them to quell the intifadah that has completed its 33rd month, they attempted to destroy the al-Aqsa Mosque after they failed to burn it and to destroy it through excavations. However, they were disappointed because the Arabs will never relinquish Jerusalem and the sanctities.

Called 'Grisly Atrocity'

JN0810205090 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1942 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers; our heroic Palestinian masses; our Arab nation: The Palestinian cause remains the core issue—the crux of the Middle East question. Peace, security, and stability in the region will remain elusive as long as this issue—ensuring the rights of the struggling people of Palestine to repatriation, self-determination, and statehood—remains unresolved. That the Palestinian question is the core Middle East issue is borne out daily by the unfolding of the developments of the conflict on the land of the conflict in the occupied land. The fact revealed daily by the repressive policies purused by the Zionist occupation against our Palestinian people.

The gruesome massacre carried out by the occupation soldiers and settlers against the valiant people of Jerusalem, which has thus far claimed 16 martyrs, confirms that there is no room for stability, security, or peace in the region short of our people regaining their full, legitimate rights. As well as reflecting a hysterical escalation of the sanguinary policies of occupation against our people, this grisly atrocity portends a possible major military action by the Zionist enemy against our Arab nation and Arab masses in Jordan and Iraq. Hence, it behooves us to be vigilant. The American-Zionist enemy seems no longer able to keep its cool, and is therefore inexorably headed toward further bloody violence and the option of crime and aggression—the only course of action it is capable of, given its racist, aggressive bent. But inevitably the wrongdoers will eventually pay dues. We will triumph and the aggressors will be vanquished.

U.S., Egypt Debt Cancellation Issue Viewed

JN0510202390 baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 2 Oct 90 p 3

["Talking Politics" column by the political editor: "Husni's Regime Receives a U.S. Slap as a Reward for His Treason"]

[Text] Following the slap and the decision by one of the specialized committees of the U.S. House of Representatives to suspend the request of the Bush Administration to cancel Egypt's military debts, which amount to $7 billion, we have tried to take our time before commenting on this scandal in order to give it time to be fully absorbed inside Egypt, and so as to detect the reactions of Husni's regime and his media sounding boards.

The failing reactions of the regime in Egypt have varied between a delusive maneuver and talk about the issue in a diffident voice marred by frustration and humiliation. For, at the level of the delusive maneuver, the president of the regime, Husni, has attempted, with obviously exposed timing, to stir up a purely domestic issue to preoccupy and divert public opinion from the U.S. decision, which represents a real scandal of the regime. This happened when the Egyptian media suddenly interrupted their transmission to announce that Husni will deliver an important speech in two hours!!

All quarters—excluding us—had expected that Husni would talk about the U.S. decision and would try to justify it and revive hopes that the U.S. promises to his regime would be kept, in order to reassure the Egyptian people, especially since the announcement about his speech came hours after the decision of the rejection of the cancellation of debts. However, being trapped as he is, the president of the Egyptian regime—contrary to expectations—released a trial balloon, which is the referendum on the dissolution of the Egyptian People's Assembly, despite the fact that this Assembly was dissolved through a judicial decision and the election of its members was considered invalid because of the rigging of voting lists.

Thus, it has become unequivocally clear that Husni wanted to camouflage his game concerning the U.S. decision rejecting the cancellation of Egypt's military debts. However, he has fallen from the first moment, because opposition parties have opposed him and reminded the Egyptian people that the decision to dissolve the Peoples' Assembly does not need a referendum, because this issue has been settled judicially and constitutionally. They also reminded the Egyptian people that the president of the regime is trying to divert the attention of popular and national forces toward what is taking place in the Gulf region and the humiliating role he has assigned to Egypt in the events, in addition to blacking out and fudging on the serious economic difficulties the Egyptian people are suffering, and the evaporation of his promises about U.S. and Western aid as the price of his treason against the Arab nation.

What the president of the Egyptian regime has done, and his failure to draw the attention of the people to the farce of dissolving the People's Assembly, was followed by diffident statements to the official media about the U.S. rejection of canceling Egyptian military debts. Some of these media began to talk about the "principled" stand of Husni without awaiting the price or rewards. Others have criticized, with deep feeling of humiliating frustration, the U.S. decision without completely severing their links with the masters in Washington. The severest criticism was issued by Cairo AL-AKHBAR newspaper, which said that the decision is a "U.S. political stupidity" while other media names who are known for being agents and satellites of the regime and the West have preferred, albeit unwillingly, to remain silent and not to comment on the issue.

As we await the impact of this U.S. decision at the level of the man on the street, which we believe will soon surface—despite the fact that one senses that a media campaign in favor of Husni's regime has already begun in an attempt to play down the decision and revive hopes of the possibility of reversing it—shedding light on how the decision to suspend the military debt cancellation was made by the Bush administration and the motives that led Washington to do it despite all the encouraging signs which suggested the contrary, may give Egypt cause to pause again—perhaps soon.

Commentary Raps U.S. 'Double Standard' on Arms

LD0810235190 Baghdad International Service in English 2100 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] In a recent speech before the United Nations General Assembly, U.S. President George Bush said he wished to see chemical weapons eliminated.

Apparently, Mr. Bush was referring to chemical weapons in one part of the Middle East, Iraq, purposefully forgetting that his call should been addressed to Israel, the party that has not only chemical weapons but also the more destructive nuclear arms. [passage omitted]

The Israelis attacked Iraq's nuclear reactor in 1981 at a time when this facility was open to inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency, which had verified that the Arab country's nuclear facility was solely meant for peaceful purposes. The Israeli raid went unpunished by the major powers of the world, who want to keep the nuclear deterrent for themselves and their arch-ally Israel. At the head of these powers is the United States, who want to keep the Arabs behind while Israel continues with its aggressive policy against Iraq and the Arabs. [passage omitted]

Iraq has developed binary chemical weapons to be used as a deterrent against any aggression by enemies of the Arab nations, like the United States and Israel. The world has, in fact, not forgotten that the Americans launched the most barbaric attacks with chemical weapons and agents like Agent Orange against the Vietnamese people. Similarly, the Israelis used the internationally prohibited napalm bombs against the Arabs in the 1967 War. It is sheer distortion of facts on the part of the United States and its imperialist allies, whose double standard policy has turned the victim, Iraq, into an aggressor, and Israel, the source of aggression in the Middle East, into a target of threats by Iraq and the Arabs.

Such unjust and prejudiced behavior by the United States and the Western world comes from people with outmoded colonialist values who persist in following arrogant, aggressive, and double standard behavior towards Iraq and the Arab nations.

Paper Spells Out Conditions for Peace

JN0710123690 Baghdad INA in English 1110 GMT 7 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 7, INA—AL-QADISIYAH daily for today has confirmed that Iraq's conditions for the realization of just and comprehensive peace include departure of the invaders from the land of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and the Arab Gulf region, leaving inter-Arab issues to the Arabs without intervention or guardianship of any one and lifting the economic blockade on Iraq and its people.

Organ of the Defence Ministry daily has further confirmed in an editorial today that these peace conditions or its broad and just basis are practicable questions we are repeating them so that everybody would realize that without achieving them peacefully, Iraq is capable by its power and capabilities of its people of embarking on achieving them even by arms and holy war. [sentence as received]

It has further said that this is the only alternative chosen in the face of beating the drums of war and waving with the use of military force.

AL-QADISIYAH has further added that the enemies' betting on the economic blockade is desperate and abortive. This savage act perpetrated by the ugly American to starve our children and our people clearly indicates the extent of falsehood with regard to the west civilization, but in return it will inspire us with determination and insistence to the end that makes its effect in our daily life as rather null, moreover it will instigate us to give more and to endure at circumstances better than ordinary ones. [sentence as received]

The paper has come to the conclusion confirming failure of the American-Zionist aggression options, supported by some Arab traitors, in terrorizing Iraq and causing rifts in its national unity and rally of its people behind the leader Saddam Husayn.

The paper has further said that along with our full knowledge of goals and aggressive intentions of America and its Zionist and Western allies, in connivance with some Arab traitor potentates such as Fahd and Husni, plots of those enemies in effecting [as received] the strong relationship between the people and President Saddam Husayn are doomed to failure.

Tribunal Arrangements for Bush Trial Completed

JN0810175890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Oct 90

[Text] The special preparatory committee entrusted with setting up a popular tribunal to try U.S. President George Bush in accordance with the World Declaration of Human Rights has completed all arrangements for the trial, which will take place next month.

Hamid Salih al-Rawi, dean of Iraqi lawyers and chairman of the committee, told the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY that some 170 Arab and international legal personalities will attend this trial, and that some of them will sit in the bench and others serve as members of the prosecution.

Al-Rawi added that the tribunal has received written memos from plaintiffs representing the Iraqi Women's General Federation, Iraqi youths and vanguards, Mother and Child Care Society, and men of religion. Experts representing doctors, pharmacists, and the Iraq Red Crescent Society, as well as representatives of the Palestinian and Libyan peoples being victimized by U.S. aggression will also attend the trial and voice their complaints against Bush's aggressive and criminal acts.

The dean of lawyers pointed out that George Bush will be tried in accordance with a bill of indictment which includes crimes which he has committed against humanity and peoples.

Official Cited on Closure of Kuwait Airport

JN0810132190 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] A high-ranking official in Iraqi Airways was today cited as saying that Iraq has closed Kuwait airport to civil aviation. In a statement to REUTER, the official said that the airport was closed for technical reasons but could not say when the airport would be reopened.

Kuwaiti Announcement on Debt Write-Off Derided

JN0710065190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2124 GMT 6 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Oct (INA)—Commenting on the announcement made by the Croesus of Kuwait regarding the writing off the interest on developing countries' debts owed to the defunct regime, the INA Arab affairs editor said the following:

The announcement made by the former Croesus of Kuwait is basically illegal, because Kuwait's funds and properties have returned to Iraq, and no one, other than Iraq, can dispose of these properties. It seems that the Croesus of Kuwait is trying to gain the sympathy of the developing states with the objective of winning them to his side with these weak methods. Everybody knows that Kuwait, after returning to the mother homeland, no longer has the capacity of a state, and thus, its properties now belong to the Iraqis.

The INA Arab affairs editor wondered: Where was the Croesus of Kuwait in the past? Why did he not write off the interest on these debts when he and his clique were squandering money on their lusts, having deposited and invested their huge funds and wealth in the United States and other Western states?

Concluding his comment, the INA Arab affairs editor said: The attempts of the Croesus of Kuwait are no more than provocations lacking any legal foundation.

USSR's Primakov Meets Saddam, Delivers Note

JN0510141390 Baghdad INA in English 1400 GMT 5 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 5, INA—President Saddam Husayn received today President Mikhail Gorbachev's personal envoy Y. Primakov who conveyed to his excellency a written message from President Gorbachev.

During the audience viewpoints on the region's issues were exchanged, since President Husayn and the Soviet envoy expressed mutual keenness on bilateral ties and confirmed the desire for peace.

The audience was attended for the Iraqi side by Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan first deputy premier, Mr. Tariq 'Aziz deputy premier and foreign minister and Mr. Latif Nusayyif Jasim minister of information and culture, and for the Soviet side by Mr. Igor Belousov, deputy premier for military affairs, Vladimir Mordvinov, deputy foreign economic relations minister and other senior officials.

Said To Stress Withdrawal

NC0510202990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2010 GMT 5 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 5 Oct (MENA)—The Soviet delegation led by Yevgeniy Primakov, member of the Presidential Council, will leave Baghdad tomorrow, Saturday, at the end of a three-day visit to Iraq.

It was learned from sources close to the Soviet delegation that Primakov stressed in his meetings with senior Iraqi officials the need for the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and for the situation to be restored to what it was prior to 2 August.

These Soviet sources told the MENA correspondent that Primakov explained that a settlement of the Kuwaiti issue on this basis would make it possible to start resolving the conflicts in the region, foremost of which is the Arab-Israeli conflict. He noted that the Soviet Union is playing an active role in resolving the Gulf crisis.

The same sources also said that Primakov conveyed to the Iraqi officials Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's wish that those Soviet nationals who want to leave be allowed to do so. The Iraqi officials stressed that there are no reasons to prevent them from doing so. They added that a large number of Soviet nationals will leave Iraq soon but they did not give their number or the time of their return.

On the other hand, the sources refused to assess the outcome of the Soviet delegation's talks in Iraq. [passage omitted]

Shows 'Optimism', Departs

JN0610122390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Oct (INA)—Yevgeniy Primakov, member of the USSR Presidential Council, and the accompanying delegation left Baghdad at noon today concluding a 3-day visit to Iraq. The Soviet official expressed his thanks and appreciation to President Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi officials for the hospitality accorded to him during his visit to Iraq. In a statement to INA, he exprssed his satisfaction with the talks he held with the Iraqi officials as well as his optimism over the possibility of finding a political solution to the current situation in the Arabian Gulf.

The Soviet official was seen off at the airport by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Soviet ambassador in Baghdad.

Saddam Chairs Armed Forces General Staff Meeting

JN0810185190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1839 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Oct (INA)—Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has chaired a meeting of the Armed Forces General Staff.

The meeting was attended by Staff General 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal, defense minister, and Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization.

Arabs Riot at Temple Mount; Police Open Fire

Police Minister Statement

TA0810164390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1548 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Statement by Police Minister Roni Milo at a news conference in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] Gentlemen, I would like to open this news conference with a statement which I will read out in Hebrew and later in English, too, if necessary.

The statement deals with the facts of today's events. At approximately 1045 [0845 GMT] today, when thousands of worshipers and visitors who came especially for the Feast of the Tabernacles were praying in the Temple Mount plaza, thousands of Arabs launched a barrage of large stones and dangerous objects into the Western Wall plaza above which they were standing. There was an enormous quantity of stones, and it was a miracle that not more than 20 were wounded by the stone barrage.

The attack on the Western Wall worshipers had been preorganized very well. It was a surprise attack which had not been preceded by anything; nor was there any warning of it coming.

The policemen who were stationed at the entrance to the Temple Mount began repelling the stone throwers and enforcing order at once, but they were met with a barrage of heavy stones hurled in a concentrated assault which put their lives in danger. Therefore, to protect themselves, they were forced to open fire. Taking advantage of the relatively small number of police present on the site, the rioters arrived at the police station on the Temple Mount and set fire to it. The station burned completely. The policeman who was manning the station was brutally beaten by the rioters. All these events resulted in many dead and injured.

According to the information we have received up to this moment, 19 persons were killed and some 140 wounded, including 55 who were hospitalized. Six policemen, including four from the Border Police and two from the local police station, were injured.

Our findings indicate beyond any doubt that this event was a preorganized provocation. Piles of stones and incendiary material, which had been prepared in advance, were found on the site of the incident. The very presence of thousands of Arab youths who arrived there on a weekday—this was not the usual hour for prayer at the mosque—indicates the riot planners' designs. Their choosing a day when a peak number of worshipers and holiday visitors filled the site was no coincidence. In addition, we must remember that this was a day on which thousands arrived in Jerusalem to participate in the traditional Jerusalem march along the city streets.

We assume the rioters had been put in action by instructions from outside operators who wished to divert world opinion from the Persian Gulf crisis and to serve the riot initiators' goals.

We regret today's fatalities, the loss of life. It should be noted and remembered, however, that the responsibility for them lies with the rioters' leaders and with leaders from the outside who put no value on human life and who are ready to resort to any means or measures to achieve their end.

The Israel Police will continue enforcing order and preventing disturbances and every kind of crime. We will ensure the well-being of the holy places and of the people who come to visit and pray there, as they did today.

It should be remembered that one of the things which provided us with information on the organized operation carried out today by outside elements was the fact that at 1005 this morning, Faysal al- Husayni entered the Temple Mount plaza. He was detained there, along with a group of youths who had hurled stones. He is under detention at this moment, as are 120 of the rioters.

The police have already held a preliminary investigation of today's events. As demanded by regulations, an inquiry commission has been set up: Whenever gunshots are fired which result in casualties, the police are obliged to set up such a commission and to arrange for a probe of events by investigating officers.

Police Commissioner Statement

TA0810190090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1610 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Statement by Police Commissioner Ya'aqov Terner at a joint news conference with Police Affairs Minister Roni Milo in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] At 0730 [0530 GMT] this morning a group of 50 tourists, most likely Christians, entered the Temple Mount. Since the Muslims on the Temple Mount were on the alert because of the plans by the Temple Mount Faithful—Gershon Solomon and his people—they surrounded the 50 tourists to check what their plans were in case they were Temple Mount Faithful. When our policemen saw what was happening, they immediately extricated the tourists and made it once again plain to the Temple Mount shaykhs that Gershon Solomon's plan would not be implemented. In other words, we did not permit the establishment of a tabernacle and the laying of a corner stone for the third temple.

We had appealed to the High Court of Justice and there was a counterappeal against the police and me personally. We insisted that we would not permit the laying of the stone, since it would interfere with public order. The High Court of Justice accepted our appeal, and it was decided that the stone would not be placed. Even this morning, the commander of the Old City police station talked with the Temple Mount shaykhs and told them yet again to lower tensions and pressures, since nothing that should be of concern to them would take place here. We talk with them all the time. We held a discussion with them last week, and the police affairs minister was constantly in the picture. We also brought to their attention that nothing was going to happen. Furthermore, Deputy Commander Bibi, the Jerusalem police commander, at his own initiative, ordered that tourists and Jews were not to enter the Temple Mount today. It was very clearly out of consideration for the Arabs, since we did not want to stretch nerves too far, although in our view there was no need for tension.

At just after 1000, as the minister said, Faysal al-Husayni appeared, and several minutes later there was the first barrage of stones. Immediately afterward, the preachers began calling for jihad, and Allah Akbar [God is Great] through the loudspeakers. I am not sure about the content of the sermons, but jihad and Allah Akbar were the most prominent words in the sermons. They called on all the Arabs from the neighborhoods to come quickly to the Temple Mount. We later learned in the debriefing that at 0900 in the morning there were Palestinian youths roaming around and ordering all the children out of the schools in the Old City and its environs in order to bring them to the Temple Mount. In fact, at 3:00 p.m. some of them were still on the mount. The stones were mostly taken from a building site on the mount and broken up to be hurled.

That is the story up to that stage. It is true that at one stage our people, when they realized it was a very grave event, left the Temple Mount and did not use firearms. They used rubber bullets and tear gas, but when they realized that it was a tough situation, since they were only 45 people—in my view even 150 or 200 people would not have changed things, because the incitement, the fanaticism, and the hysteria were much more intense than even Jerusalem police veterans can recall—the police left. Then there was a call from the police station that it was being attacked, which developed into the policemen being beaten and the burning of the station. That led to the need to break in. From the moment of entry and the massive barrage of stones on the policemen with metal, chains, and iron bars, and anything else they could get their hands on—I spoke with the policemen, there was not a single policeman who was not wounded in some way by stone throwing; you should see their clothes—they made a very difficult decision. The decision to use firearms is a very difficult one to make and very undesirable. In principle, the Israeli police do not use firearms, and the order is to open fire only if there is real mortal danger. We all know that no live ammunition was fired in the first part of today's events, when the Wailing Wall was hit by stones from the Temple Mount. It was not a decision by a certain person to open fire. Things do not work that way. It depends on the danger each policeman is facing on his own. A single policeman in mortal danger does not ask his commander, who might be 200 or 300 meters away, whether he has permission to open fire. He is trained and knows the standing orders about that.

21 Killed, 115 Wounded

TA0810135290 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Excerpt] According to the information we have received from the spokesman of al-Maqasid Hospital in East Jerusalem, 21 people were killed and 115 injured in today's incidents on the Temple Mount. The figure includes data from both al-Maqasid and Augusta Victoria Hospitals.

We asked Police Commissioner Terner to confirm the veracity of the above unofficial figures, and here is his answer:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] I will give you the numbers we have received from East Jerusalem hospitals: 21 dead and over 100 injured. Do they seem plausible to you?

[Terner] This is approximately the number I know too. It is very sad. You should see what the Temple Mount looks like now: The police station was completely torched; there are no policemen who have not been hit by stones; some policemen were in genuine danger of their lives, and the police had no other option but to react the way they did. The price is indeed very heavy, but the Israel Police were forced to defend themselves and the thousands of worshipers. [end recording]

We will remind you that the number of today's fatalities is the highest since the beginning of the intifadah. Some two years ago, in April 1988, after Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] was assassinated, 16 Palestinians were killed in riots which erupted in the territories. [passage omitted]

Curfews Imposed in West Bank

TA0810154990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has clamped curfews on numerous locations in Judaea and Samaria, including Nabulus and the adjacent refugee camps. Curfews were also imposed on many refugee camps along main traffic axes, such as al-'Arrub, Qalandiyah, Tulkarm, al-Jalazun, and refugee camps in the Bethlehem area. Ramallah has been declared a closed military zone.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that as soon as news of the riots in East Jerusalem reached the territories, riots broke out in various locations. In several places, youths came out in the streets to burn tires and hurl stones.

In Nazareth, dozens of youths staged a demonstration and shouted anti-Israeli slogans. They were dispersed by a large police force. The police presence in the city remains beefed up in case of disturbances.

In Kafr Kanna, near Nazareth, stones were hurled at an Egged bus traveling from Haifa to Tiberias this afternoon. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that no one was hurt, but the bus windshield was shattered.

Gaza 'Closed Military Zone'

TA0810184790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Excerpts] A 25-year-old man was killed in riots in the Jabalyah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. He was buried in the camp. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that, according to camp residents, many locals were wounded.

The Gaza Strip has been declared a closed military zone. [passage omitted]

Our Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the chief of the general staff has pointed out that the Israel Defense Forces will absolutely not permit the residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip to take advantage of the events in Jerusalem so as to stage disturbances.

Leaders Respond to Temple Mount Incident

Shamir Remarks at Festival

TA0810183090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1746 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Address by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to the annual Kurdistan Jews festival in Ma'yan Harod; broadcast in progress—live]

[Text] ....Stones and rocks thrown by a hysterical Arab mob from the Temple Mount, which was full of Jews praying near the Western Wall. And, at the same time, our police station on the Temple Mount was attacked by a preorganized group. It was only by a miracle and with the aid of the God of Israel that not many of the worshipers were hurt. In the confrontation which ensued between the police and the Border Police and the rioters, a number of rioters were wounded and killed.

I have to say this: We deeply regret the blood shed in vain. We do not wish to hurt anyone or take the life of any person, and the investigation will reveal whose wicked hand tried to start a fire of hatred and to cause bloodshed during the Feast of the Tabernacles in Jerusalem. Our security forces did their duty and stood firm on guard, as they have always done. They continue preserving order and quiet in Jerusalem and preventing the recurrence of rioting.

For many years, ever since the 1967 war, we have been doing everything possible to render Jerusalem a city of peace and coexistence between all nations and religions. Someone has now attempted to take advantage of the atmosphere of hysteria and fundamentalist radicalism broadcast from Baghdad in a bid to ignite a fire in Jerusalem. Their scheme has failed, thank God. [applause] Our security forces stood firm, and they will continue to maintain quiet and peace in the holy city of Jerusalem, as they are doing throughout our country.

The Jewish people will continue coming to Jerusalem and to the Western Wall. [applause] The Jewish people will continue coming in great numbers to the eastern part of Jerusalem. They will not deter us! They will not scare us! [continuous applause] We will continue celebrating our holidays as we have done for thousands of years, and no power in the world will prevent the Jewish people from living its independent and free life in Eretz Yisra'el.

I will conclude my speech by wishing this congregation health and success.

Rejects Kolek's Theory

TA0810203290 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has categorically rejected [Jerusalem Mayor] Teddy Kolek's observation that the declaration [by Shamir on 7 October] about a new Jewish neighborhood in Jerusalem may have caused the riots in Jerusalem. The prime minister stated that today's riots were a deliberate attempt to divert attention from the events in the Gulf. Mr. Shamir said that he deeply regrets the victims and the event itself.

The prime minister further said that the Temple Mount event had been very well planned in advance, and that it is in no way connected to the attempt of the Temple Mount Faithful to lay a cornerstone for the third Temple.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 2000 GMT on 8 October adds: "The prime minister said that the security authorities have information saying that several days before the rioting on the Temple Mount, Jerusalem Arabs had been recruited into a force designed to attack people praying at the Western Wall plaza."

[The report adds that, addressing the festivities of the Kurdistan Jews, "Shamir condemned the plan of the Israeli Arab sector leaders to stage a two-day general strike in their towns. He stressed that the Arab mayors must try to find those responsible for the preplanned provocation carried out in Jerusalem today."]

Knesset Members Response

TA0810162990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 8 oct 90

[Text] Labor Knesset Member [MK] Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer calls for the closure of the Temple Mount mosques for at least a week to permit the authorities to restore order there, but he said the role of the Waqf and the preachers there should be investigated and that charges should be brought against them if they are found responsible for the rioting.

Likud MK Re'uven Rivlin said the Temple Mount events are not a continuation of the intifadah, but of the Islamic world's war against the Jews. He said Arab residents of Israel must know that they will have equal rights only if Jews can live in peace in their own country.

In reaction to the Temple Mount incidents, Gush Emunim sent cables to the prime minister and the defense minister demanding the immediate expulsion of the rioters' leaders. Our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld reports that several Jewish settlement leaders in Judaea and Samaria expressed their support for that demand.

Peace Now said that the inquiry into the Temple Mount incident must not be conducted by the police. Peace Now also says that the orders about opening fire must also be investigated in the wake of reports that most of the casualties sustained gunshot wounds.

MK Menahem Porush [of Agudat Yisra'el] attacked the police and said that he cannot understand its lack of alertness and why it did not take measures last night to prevent Arab rioters from stoning Jewish worshipers at the Wailing Wall. Agudat Yisra'el's Knesset faction called on the Knesset speaker to open the Knesset winter session next week with a debate on the Arab rioting near the Wailing Wall.

The HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] Knesset faction described the Temple Mount events as a pogrom. It accused the prime minister of being responsible for the events because he exerted pressure on the police to stamp out the intifadah in East Jerusalem, it said.

Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Moshe Gafni, of Degel Hatora, visited the Wailing Wall this afternoon and said police forces should be beefed up on the Temple Mount during Jewish holidays. Rabbi Gafni urged lowering the tone of public statements in order to avoid a further heating up of the situation.

Shomron, Arens' Adviser Remark

TA0910081390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 9 Oct 90

[Report by military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashse]

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, the chief of General Staff, has called on the residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip not to follow the incitements coming from within and from outside, and to go on with their lives as usual. The chief of staff made it clear that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will in no way allow the residents to take advantage of yesterday's incidents to disturb the order in those areas.

Dani Nave, the defense minister's media adviser, has said that the riot in Jerusalem must be viewed against the background of the attempts by Palestinian organizations, headed by the PLO, to stir up emotions and urge violence in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip to divert the attention from events in the Gulf.

The IDF has taken steps and security precautions to prevent various elements from making use of the incidents for incitement and additional violence. The IDF has sent a large number of forces into the territories, keeping other forces on alert. The maximum number of security forces have been deployed to face possible rioting. Defense sources have said that they expect and are prepared for one of the most difficult days the State of Israel has ever had to face. [passage omitted]

Defense Sources Criticize Police

TA0810165090 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Report by army affairs correspondent Amir Fink]

[Text] Today's events on the Temple Mount are grave and will probably have greater repercussions than the murder of the seven Arabs by a Jew in Rishon Leziyyon last May, defense establishment sources said tonight. It is presumed that what happened on the Temple Mount this morning might trigger [last word in English] even graver events in the territories than the rioting set off by the Rishon Leziyyon murder. There is also grave concern about a possible sharp reaction among Israeli Arabs. The defense establishment has decided to beef up the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in the territories, and has already begun to take steps in that direction.

Reports are already coming in about rioting in various locations in the territories, and the IDF has decided to impose curfews on problematic areas. In the Gaza Strip, the IDF is in control of the major traffic axes and the forces there are more prepared than on 20 May, but they are trying to avoid any direct confrontation with the local population, especially refugee camp residents.

Defense establishment sources criticized the police who, they said, did not correctly assess the inherent danger involved in the possible friction between Jewish worshipers at the Wailing Wall and Arabs on the Temple Mount. Had there been 300 border policemen and not 50, they would have been better prepared and the incident would have ended differently, with fewer casualties, the sources said. The police were given an early warning about a plan by Arab worshipers to congregate on the Temple Mount. The events that developed were apparently more or less spontaneous, but the people were spurred on by the preachers in the mosques. It is not clear if the rioters had prepared themselves for an attack on the Jewish worshipers.

Meridor Defends Live Fire Use

TA0810201590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Interview in the studio with Justice Minister Dan Meridor by Shalom Oren and political correspondent Arye Golan—live]

[Text] [Oren] Good evening, Justice Minister Dan Meridor.

[Meridor] Good evening.

[Oren] Do you share the opinion of several ministers—that the arrangements on the Temple Mount should be altered?

[Meridor] A very grave incident has occurred. For 23 years, we have been trying—with considerable success—to preserve Jerusalem, Israel's capital which is under Israeli sovereignty, as one city. The Temple Mount is the heart of the matter; it is that for us, and perhaps for them, too.

Today a very grave attempt was made, which caused considerable bloodshed, to overturn the order and to prove that the problem has not been solved and that Jerusalem remains an open question. I think that even without making decisions on the spur of the moment, all those who made today's attempt should understand that the question of Jerusalem is not open, and that despite the difficulties and events such as we witnessed today, Jerusalem and the Temple Mount remain under Israeli sovereignty.

As for arrangements, I would not draw a hasty conclusion regarding changes. The events must be studied and operational lessons learned, if necessary. The police are dealing with this aspect at the moment, in order to prevent the recurrence of such events in the future. It should be understood that with our set of values, the death of 20 persons is a heavy toll. Perhaps for the other side, the fact that many people were killed serves the end of inflaming this issue and heating up the atmosphere and inflaming tempers. We have no such interest.

[Golan] Minister Meridor, you said an attempt was made to show that not everything is all right in Jerusalem. If there was indeed provocation, my question is whether this provocation has not been successful. As you have yourself said: Someone may have wanted to see so many people killed. And the police did resort to live ammunition, a result of which 19 Arabs were killed and 140 wounded. Does this not signify a failure on our part?

[Meridor] No policeman or soldier uses weapons happily. If there is another choice, they do not use arms. Usually, the police make great efforts—they certainly do in Jerusalem, with considerable success—to prevent riots and attacks without resorting to live fire. However, when thousands of Arabs run about with sticks, stones, and chains on the Temple Mount, throwing things, threatening people, and shouting Allah Akbar [God Is Great] and Itbah al-Yahud [slaughter the Jews], one does not expect 50 policemen to stand about and explain to the rioters why this is not a nice thing to do. If there was no other way, they were allowed and even should have used live fire, if that could have saved their lives—which is what they did. We would have certainly preferred not to find ourselves in such a situation, but if they had this chutzpah, this kind of daring to make such a preplanned attempt.... [changes thought] We already know, as the police minister and the police commissioner said earlier, that this event had been planned during the preceding day and night. When such an attempt is made, no one should think we will stand idly by and use pretty words to provide explanations while we are being assaulted. It is a pity that the outcome was what it was, but in the circumstances, there was no other alternative. Policemen who had to defend themselves used live fire. Naturally, we would prefer such things not to happen, and we certainly must learn the appropriate lessons in order to make an effort to avert such events in the future. In this instance, we had no choice but to react.

[Golan] With your permission, I would like to ask about the future: Do you, Minister Meridor, tonight have a greater fear of an attack by Saddam Husayn?

[Meridor] An attack by Saddam Husayn that will drag Israel into a war is a threat Saddam Husayn has been making for a long time, and he did so with no connection with the Temple Mount events. Will he dare to do it? Will he fear an Israeli reaction? All these remain open questions. We must be prepared for every possibility, even if it is not very likely. I would not try to link these two issues, although others may try to do so.

[Oren] Does this deflect world attention from the Gulf crisis to us?

[Meridor] There is no doubt that those who initiated today's riots, today's attack in Jerusalem, wanted to place the question of Israel and the Arabs, which is primarily a question of Jerusalem, on the world's agenda. They have certainly succeeded in putting the issue in the headlines for a day or two. I hope that a firm stance and clear public relations campaign on our part that will explain the provocation and the violent fanaticism which we confronted, as well as the measures to which we have resorted, will calm tempers and make the world forget the issue soon enough. I hope people will again see the situation in the right proportions. The problem of Iraq is a great and grave dilemma, and the world's attention should not be diverted from it.

[Golan] To conclude, Minister Meridor, a more general question: In view of what happened today, do you not despair of the chance to see Jews and Arabs living together peacefully in that city?

[Meridor] No, I do not despair, although I never did delude myself that this was going to be easy and that it was going to end in a day, a week, or a year. This is a profound and long-standing conflict over this country, over Jerusalem. Woe to the nation which is the first to lose patience; woe to the nation that is the first to despair. We, the Jewish people, will not be less, we will be more determined in our struggle for Jerusalem. I hope we will not have to bear many more events such as we did today.

[Oren] Minister Meridor, the authorities have been debating whether to file charges against Faysal al-Husayni for a few months now. He was detained today. Will charges be filed against him?

[Meridor] As you know, filing charges does not lie within the jurisdiction of cabinet ministers, thank God; it is up to the attorney general. If he receives material from the police or the security services that justifies such a step, he will certainly make the right decision.

[Oren] Justice Minister Dan Meridor, thank you very much.

Netanyahu Interviewed

TA0910080290 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 9 Oct 90

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyanmin Netanyahu by Mikha Friedman and Gilat Levi—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Only yesterday the Foreign Ministry instructed Israel's representatives throughout the world to explain that the State of Israel is a safe place to be at this time, and to protest the U.S. State Department's advisory against visiting Israel and the territories. Does it not seem that this instruction should be updated following the Temple Mount events and the escalation in the territories?

[Netanyahu] No. We have referred to the issue of terrorism. This has not changed. Naturally, there are special provocations, but no visitor who follows police instructions and acts with common sense must fear a visit to Israel. The major thing that must be observed here, of course, is the political aspect of these events. Clearly, the tendency here is to divert international attention away from the Gulf toward the Palestinian issue. International reaction must realize that it should not lend a hand to this.

[Friedman] You speak of a tendency. Such a tendency must be backed by somebody, if it is organized. Do we this morning know more about the body or the people who planned the incident, who issued the order?

[Netanyahu] We know for certain that attempts are being made to divert attention through initiated acts. Such an attempt was made on Yom Kippur, when an incident on the Temple Mount was foiled by the police. The organizers waited for another opportunity when there were many visitors there, and regrettably, yesterday they managed to implement their plan.

The calls to bring an alleged UN Security Council force to defend the Palestinians here are particularly hypocritical when they come from the Arab side. We do not hear a single call to bring a UN force here, when hundreds of Palestinians are killed by PLO death squads. The whole thing is organized, timed, and directed to achieve this diversion of international public opinion. I do not believe we should assist this.

[Levi] The Palestinians have indeed succeeded in turning international attention from the Gulf to the territories. Has Israel lost all the credit it had gained during the Gulf crisis?

[Netanyahu] I hope that the responsible countries realize that they are foiling their own efforts to form a coalition against Saddam Husayn, and not assist in this transparent trick. I would also say: The Arab countries threatened by Saddam have no interest in backing up this move by the PLO and Saddam. I believe that even if they are being pulled in this direction by the Arab rhetoric and their inherent hatred for Israel, this certainly does not oblige the rest of the international community [to do the same].

[Friedman] Back to the issue of organization: We heard reports that there is a possiblity that Faysal al-Husayni will be deported from Israel for his involvement in the Temple Mount events. What is your position on this sensitive issue?

[Netanyahu] I would like to examine the incident first. One thing, however, is clear. The organizers of the intifadah had every intention to carry out such an incident. Al-Husayni arrived at the Temple Mount a few minutes before the riot broke out, and his involvement is now being examined. I suggest we wait until the police conclude their investigation.

[Levi] The U.S. secretary of state has said that Israel must exercise restraint in future incidents. All those speaking at the UN Security Council condemned Israel for excessive use of force. Can the United States still veto a UN resolution to condemn Israel?

[Netanyahu] It certainly can, if it wants to.

[Levi] Even now that every representative who spoke yesterday condemned Israel?

[Netanyahu] A condemnation of Israel in quasi-absurd situations is not a new thing for the Security Council. We have seen this before. Also, we have seen the United States standing against this tendency. I hope this will be done. What we see here is especially grotesque. Muslim inciters organized an attack on the holiest place of the Jewish People. In the attack they tried to murder Jews, and later the police force tried to help them. The international community blames Israel, instead of accusing those behind this aggression. Should we help and encourage other countries to avoid the real question of what is happening here? Certainly not. That is why we expect the United States and responsible countries to foil this effort and to insist on getting the facts.

[Friedman] This last incident brings back, and in a most outstanding manner, the unresolved question of how the intifadah must really be dealt with. Several of your political colleagues have for some time maintained that this is the way to quell the intifadah, to fight the stonethrowers and rioters—fire to effect against the stones. What is your position on this issue, in principle?

[Netanyahu] I believe the main thing here is to set up a network of forces in the area that would deter such incidents. Second, it is a political question. The intifadah has a political goal. It is not a spontaneous organization.

Yesterday's event was not spontaneous either. The goal is to attain political gains. If we prevent those gains on the international level as well, the intifadah would have no purpose or reason to continue. That is why we have a combination of activity on location and on the international level.

[Levi] Are yesterday's incidents a turning point in the intifadah, causing its revival?

[Netanyahu] I would not like to make prophecies at this point. The tendency exists, and we must fight it. I believe that the real big story here is what will the international community do in relation to this scheme; and I certainly call it a scheme. It must make a decision now: Does it want to help 'Arafat and Saddam, or does it want to help itself in its struggle against the Iraqi aggression. This is the decision the Security Council, the United States, and other countries must now make.

[Friedman] Do you believe they would adopt our position?

[Netanyahu] The question is what are their interests. In principle, their interests are not basically different from ours.

[Friedman] Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, thank you.

[Netanyahu] Thank you.

Herzog Calls for Calm

TA0810173190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] President Herzog has called on public leaders, Arab and Jewish alike, to take action to calm the raging tempers in Jerusalem. He noted that the tragic events on the Temple Mount reflect the sensitivity of this holy site. Today's preplanned operation was aimed at disrupting the delicate balance that the Israeli Government has managed to maintain for many years. It was meant to harm the Jewish public's freedom of worship and religion.

Temple Mount Faithful Reject Palestinian Version

Gershon Solomon Comments

TA0810191390 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Report by police affairs correspondent Yaron Toren]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Palestinian sources said that the rioting erupted because of the fear that the Temple Mount Faithful would lay a cornerstone for the third Jewish temple and that when the group approached the mount, the stone throwing began. That claim is totally unfounded, since when the rioting erupted, the Temple Mount Faithful were in Silwan, which is situated about 500 meters away from there. Gershon Solomon, the head of the movement, responds:

[Begin Solomon recording] It has been proved beyond doubt, the Temple Mount is not in our hands, the Wailing Wall is not in our hands, Jerusalem is not in our hands. There are no Jews on the Temple Mount and there is no security for Jews, there is also no safety at the Wailing Wall. It is degrading for the people of Israel to see Jews fleeing 23 years after the liberation of Jerusalem. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Radio Report

JN0810184790 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1540 GMT 8 Oct 90

[From the "With the Events" program; report by 'Umar Zaydani]

[Text] The events that took place today in the plaza of the holy Jerusalem mosque began when thousands of Muslims started breaking public order by throwing stones at Jewish worshippers near the Wailing Wall, which led to the injury of some.

Police forces and border forces responded to this by using tear gas and rubber bullets. However, incidents of breaking public order aggravated, and thousands attacked the police station near the holy mosque and burned it to the ground. Not one policeman avoided being hit by a stone; police members faced a real danger to their lives, and there was no alternative to the policemen and border police but to act the way they did. The price was heavy, as Police Commissioner Terner said.

Policemen and border police replied to the serious incidents of riot in the holy mosque plaza by firing bullets. This led to the killing of 21 people and the injury of 180 others, as the reports from al-Maqasid Hospital and Victoria Hospital in southern Jerusalem indicate. The police also confirmed these figures.

The events at the holy mosque plaza were premeditated by some extremist elements, initial police investigations indicate. It was also discovered that barrels full of stones and bottles and nails had been prepared in advance. The police asserted that these events have no relation to the intention of the Temple Mount Faithful to enter the holy mosque plaza, because at the time of the riot, the Temple Mount Faithful were not present there.

Police forces have arrested many suspects, including Faysal al-Husayni.

Pazner Blames 'Extremist' Palestinians

TA0810160190 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Report by Natan Gutman]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has been updated on events in East Jerusalem throughout the morning. The police affairs minister, the police commander, the religious affairs minister, and the prime minister's advisers keep Shamir updated. The prime minister will respond to the events this evening when he addresses a public event in the north.

Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, has been telling the foreign press here that extremist Palestinian elements are behind the rioting and that it is clear that Faysal al-Husayni is also involved. Pazner believes the incident was aimed at diverting attention from the Gulf to the Palestinian problem.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 8 October quotes the Prime Minister's Office as saying that the rioting was "initiated by Muslim fundamentalists" and that it was "well organized and had no connection whatsoever with the Temple Mount Faithful or an attempt by them to lay a cornerstone for a third Jewish temple."]

The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem is currently holding consultations on the information campaign it will ask representatives around the world to present. At this stage, the policy is to explain that the event resulted from a planned provocation by Arab extremists. Reports reaching the Foreign Ministry speak about strong negative reactions in the international media. Israel will ask its representatives abroad to explain to the world that it was a planned Arab attack and that the police reaction was in direct relation to the gravity of the rioting. In any case, it is already known that the incident will be featured on the Cabinet's agenda at its meeting on Sunday.

Agriculture Minister Refa'el Eytan of Tzomet plans to demand a change in the arrangements that left the Temple Mount under the control of the Waqf.

Deputy Mufti Detained For Inciting Riot

TA0910060090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 9 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Shaykh Muhammad al-Jamal, Jerusalem's deputy mufti, was detained by the police this morning. He is suspected of incitement. This was reported by our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum. The 144 suspects who were detained on the Temple Mount and in other locations in East Jerusalem yesterday are still in police custody. Faysal al-Husayni is also in detention. His interrogation focuses on his role in organizing the riots.

The police command will decide this morning whether to open the Temple Mount gates for prayers and visits. The Waqf claims that the police have confiscated the keys to all the gates for the first time since 1967. [Interviewed on Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 9 October, Jerusalem Police Commander Arye Bibi states that "the police do not have a single key that belongs to the Waqf, and I am surprised by this claim."] [passage omitted]

Last night the body of a taxi driver from the Ramot neighborhood in Jerusalem was found near his car at the entrance to Abu-Ghawsh on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway. He was shot in the back of the neck by a passenger sitting in the back seat; the incident probably occurred for nationalistic reasons. The police, however, are examining other possibilities. [passage omitted]

The UN Security Council this morning was presented with a draft resolution calling for three of its members to be sent to Jerusalem to examine the situation there. Our correspondent in Washington 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that it is assumed that the United States will try to change the wording of the resolution, because too much involvement by the Security Council contradicts its policy. It will, however, find it hard to veto the resolution since the Security Council supported the United States on the Gulf issue. [passage omitted]

PLO Spokesman Urges Further Attacks on IDF

TA0910095290 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Oct 90 p A3

[Report on "exclusive telephone interview with PLO spokesman" Bassam Abu-Sharif in Tunis by Ori Nir in Washington, "following the massacre in Jerusalem yesterday"]

[Text] In a telephone interview from his residence in Tunis, Bassam Abu-Sharif, the PLO leader's spokesman, yesterday told HA'ARETZ that following the massacre in Jerusalem his organization instructed the Palestinians in the territories to escalate violent activities against the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. Abu-Sharif denied the reports that his organization initiated the events on the Temple Mount, and accused Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir of being personally responsible for the crime committed in East Jerusalem, because he declared that a new Jewish settlement will be set up in East Jerusalem. "He is personally responsible for it, just as Menahem Begin is personally responsible for the Dayr Yassin massacre [where a group of Irgun members killed some 250 residents of the village near Jerusalem on 9 April 1948]; Shamir wants to ignite a military confrontation in the Gulf."

According to him, the crime was planned by the Israeli authorities, despite the false charges of the Israeli Government that a group of Palestinians started the incident by throwing rocks at Jews praying there. Another cause for tension, the Palestinian spokesman said, was the statement issued by the Temple Mount Faithful that they intended to demolish the al-Aqsa Mosque and build a Jewish temple on its site.

Abu-Sharif commented on remarks made by Police Minister Roni Milo that external elements have instructed Muslims to attack Jewish worshipers. He said that what took place was a reaction of the Muslims against Israeli police brutality. Abu-Sharif declared: "We have decided to escalate resistance in every village, town, and refugee camp in the territories. We will resist the soldiers with all our might." According to him, his organization still calls on the Israeli Government to negotiate with it, because any other option would mean total destruction. The Center for Palestinian Affairs [name as published] has blamed the Israeli soldiers and settlers for the massacre and has urged the international community to protect Palestinians.

Local Arabs To Honor Dead With Strike, Prayer

TA0810190590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] The entire Israeli Arab sector will go on a two-day strike as of tomorrow morning. On Friday, a special prayer will be held at mosques in Israel. These actions will be taken to commemorate the fatalities in the Temple Mount incident.

Our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling reports that a decision to this effect was made a short while ago at a heavily attended meeting of all the Arab local councils with Arab Knesset members.

'Resentment' Over U.S. Travel Advisory Noted

TA0810052690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] Israel has expressed amazement and resentment over a travel advisory issued by the U.S. State Department warning American tourists against traveling both in the Gulf area and in the administered territories. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Israel objected to linking the two issues, and that recently Washington had expressed satisfaction over the improvement in the security situation in the territories.

Israel will relay its official response to the advisory through diplomatic channels.

Infiltrator Described as Civilian Seeking Revenge

JN0610175790 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1722 GMT 6 Oct 90

[Text] A Jordanian official who declined to reveal his identity said the man killed yesterday by an Israeli patrol near the Jordanian-Israeli cease-fire line was not a Jordanian soldier, but a civilian who wanted to take revenge against Israeli atrocities against Palestinians in the occupied territory.

Saudis Recall Ambassador From Amman

JN0610143090 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 Oct 90

[Text] Saudi Arabia today recalled its ambassador to Jordan, Muhammad Fahd al-'Isa, who has departed for Riyadh. Amman sources say the Saudi measure is in retaliation for Amman's decision to recall its ambassador to Saudi Arabia following the Saudi decisions last month to close down the Jordanian military attache's office and reduce the number of Jordanian diplomats accredited in Riyadh.

Syria is currently mediating to mend the rift between Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

Foreign Ministry Unaware

JN0710084390 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Oct 90 Second Edition p 1

["Exclusive"]

[Text] A source in Amman has said that the Saudi authorities have decided to recall the Saudi ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Muhammad Fahd al-'Isa.

Answering a question by SAWT AL-SHA'B, an official source at the Jordanian Foreign Ministry said that Jordanian officials have no information about this, and that they have not been informed officially by the Saudi Government about the decision.

Answering another question by SAWT AL-SHA'B concerning the return of Jordan's ambassador to Saudi Arabia, who was recalled earlier, the source said that the Jordanian ambassador would be reinstated once the reasons for which he was recalled are removed.

It was learned that Saudi Ambassador Muhammad Fahd al-'Isa left Amman yesterday morning.

Saudi Arabia Allows Local Trucks Transit

JN0610213990 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 6 Oct 90 pp 1, 20

[By Ahmad Kurayshan]

[Excerpts] Jordanian trucks carrying Jordanian produce continue to be banned from entering Saudi territory, although Saudi authorities are allowing all Jordanian trucks en route to other Arab Gulf states to transit its territory. Jordanian trucks have continued to face obstacles hindering their entry into Turkish territory.

Intensive high-level contacts are currently being held between the Jordanian Government and Saudi and Turkish authorities in order to resolve the problems and obstacles facing the fleet of Jordanian trucks, which number 12,000.

Dr. Muhammad al-Simadi, secretary general of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, told AL-RA'Y that the Jordanian Government intends to address an official invitation to Turkish authorities today, Saturday, to hold talks with a Turkish delegation on the agreement signed by the two countries in 1988 in a bid to resolve the current problems and obstacles. [passage omitted]

Haykal al-Muflih, director general of the Jordanian Refrigerated Trucks Corporation, said that Saudi authorities have permitted all Jordanian trucks to transit its territory on their way to other Arabian Gulf states. He indicated that there are no trucks parked at the borders right now. He added that the loading of Jordanian commodities bound for Saudi Arabia has thus far remained unchanged.

Al-Muflih expressed the hope that Saudi authorities will allow Jordanian trucks carrying Jordanian commodities to enter its territory. [passage omitted]

Germans Freed by Iraq Head for Amman

JN0510125990 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 5 Oct 90

[Text] Four German men who were held in Iraq flew to Amman today after Iraqi President Saddam Husayn ordered their release to mark German unification.

A German diplomat in Baghdad said the four men, accompanied by a German parliament member had been released for reasons of age and health.

The Speaker of the Iraqi Parliament Sa'di Mahdi Salih told the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY that the release was a gesture to show that the Iraqi people share the German people's joy at reunification. The departing Germans expressed their gratitude for the hospitality and full care accorded to them during their stay in Iraq and described the Iraqi president's decision to release them as a message of peace to the world reflecting Iraq's goodwill to establish peace and security in the region and the world.

Officials, Media React to Al-Aqsa Incident

Envoy Addresses UNSC

JN0910072590 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 9 Oct 90

[Excerpt] The UN Security Council [UNSC] last night held urgent consultations on the situation resulting from the serious incidents in occupied Jerusalem in the wake of the bloody massacre perpetrated by the Israeli occupation authorities yesterday. Details follow:

The UNSC was in session yesterday to continue its deliberations on the situation in the occupied Arab territories against the background of the Israeli acts of repression in the al-Burayj camp in the Gaza Strip when it was asked to suspend these deliberations to begin immediate consultations on the bloody massacre committed by the Israeli occupation troops in occupied Jerusalem.

'Abdallah Salah, Jordan's permanent representative at the United Nations, delivered a speech at the meeting. In his speech, he said: Israel has shocked the world once again by its perpetration of a new massacre in the occupied Palestinian territories yesterday morning. It is a terrible coincidence to see Israel perpetrate an ugly crime against the Palestinians in holy Jerusalem on the same day the UNSC convenes to discuss the situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, including Jerusalem.

'Abdallah Salah added: The ugliness of this criminal Israeli aggression emanates not only from the fact that it was unjustified, but also from the fact that it was perpetrated in the courtyard of the al-Aqsa Mosque, the third holiest shrine to Muslims. Before this aggression, another Israeli aggression was committed against the same holy shrine by an extremist religious group. Thus, what actually took place are two successive Israeli aggressions. [passage omitted]

Minister Issues Warning

JN0810210590 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 Oct 90 pp 1, 14

[By Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Text] His Eminence Dr. 'Ali al-Faqir, minister of Awqaf and Islamic affairs, has said: Jordan will raise the issue of Zionist aggression against the al-Aqsa mosque at the UN General Assembly.

Responding to the march that an extremist group called Temple Mount Faithful will make today toward the Jerusalem holy mosque in order to lay down the cornerstone of the alleged third temple, his eminence told AL-DUSTUR: Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who is currently in New York, will raise this serious aggression on Islamic sanctities at the current UN General Assembly.

He said Jordan calls on the civilized world to give this issue the same attention it is giving to the Gulf crisis, which is originally an offshoot of the Palestine question.

The minister said that what the so-called "group of Temple Mount Faithful" intend to do is aimed at testing the Muslims' stance. What has encouraged this, he said, is "the Muslims' relinquishment of their other holy places" and the Arabs' preoccupation with each another and their division over the Gulf incidents. This, he added, has given them an opportunity to fulfill their dreams of erecting their temples at the expense of the Muslim holy places.

His eminence exhorted the Arab and Islamic nation—leaders, governments, and people—to realize the gravity of the current stage and to hasten to resolve their differences and block the road to those who are waiting for the right time to swoop down on the al-Aqsa mosque.

Hasan Says Incident 'Outrageous'

JN0810211090 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2003 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] His royal highness the crown prince today condemned as outrageous the crime that was committed by the occupying Israeli forces and that caused the death of a large number of Palestinians in the occupied territories.

His royal highness was speaking in an interview with the French daily LE MONDE. He said the crime came at this moment of high tension in the Gulf region, and with Jerusalem still annexed after 23 years of Israeli occupation.

The crown prince said the explosiveness of the situation now is only a step away from moving the whole region from a crisis between conflicting states to a crisis of conflicting religious adherences. His royal highness asked whether this act could be a diversion from the Gulf crisis, or whether that diversion means that the Israelis, or some Israeli hawks, think that on the eve of the visit of European foreign ministers to the area, they can show the subject of security in Israel is still of paramount significance and that the Arabs are unreasonable.

Ministry Condemns Incident

JN0810144690 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1412 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] Amman, 8 Oct (PETRA)—An official Foreign Ministry spokesman stated that the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan denounces and condemns the criminal, racist incident committed by the trustees of the Israeli Temple Mount on the grounds of the holy mosque in the city of Jerusalem with the help and cooperation of the Israeli occupation authorities, whose interference has martyred a number of Palestinian citizens and wounded many others.

The spokesman said that in strongly condemning this deliberate, criminal incident, Jordan appeals to world countries and the international community to quickly intervene to put an end to these inhumane practices in order to guarantee security for the Palestinian citizens and to protect them from these repeated aggressions committed by the Israeli occupation authorities and the Israeli radical terrorist groups against these citizens and the holy places.

The spokesman added: Jordan also strongly calls for taking measures to force Israel to apply the Geneva Convention on protecting civilians in wartime and under occupation, and also to force it to implement UN resolutions on protecting the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation.

The Jordanian Government has instructed its UN permanent representative to raise this criminal incident before the international organization.

Emergency House Session Requested

JN0810221490 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] House of Representatives Speaker Sulayman 'Arar has denounced the massacre committed by Israel. In an interview with our parliamentary affairs correspondent, he called for reinforcing Arab solidarity to put an end to the Israeli arrogance against the Palestinian people.

[Begin 'Arar recording] We are not surprised by the massacre, which was committed by the Zionist forces in Jerusalem. Because the Arabs are fragmented and divided, we believe there will be bigger massacres, because our enemies everywhere are preparing for them. We link this massacre and the Israeli intransigence and arrogance with what is happening in our region and on our land in the Arabian Peninsula. The large-scale U.S. and other foreign troop concentrations in the Arabian Peninsula is an evidence that this nation is facing the most serious dangers, and that it is the United States that is leading these battles throughout our nation as a result of its greed for Arab wealth and Arab oil.

We believe that the U.S. threat to our people in Iraq is aimed at preventing Iraq from possessing the power that can stop Israel's expansion. This crime, we believe, is an attempt to explode the situation anew and to declare war against us and our nation. We also fear that it is a trap set by Zionism, this time in order to destroy this nation and devour other parts of it. Therefore, we urged our Arab brothers everywhere to join ranks, renounce differences, and solve their own problems without the help of any foreigner and without seeking the assistance of the United States, which protects and supports Israel by extending money, weapons, technology, and information, in particular. We link this fierce onslaught and this serious escalation in the region with the serious escalation by the United States, which represents a continuous aggression against our nation. We urge our citizens in this free and proud country to rally around their leadership and open their minds and eyes so that our country's security will not be tampered with by Israel, which is laying a trap for us in every corner in order to disrupt our ranks, which, God be praised, supported the leadership when the problem emerged and the evil intention of the Americans and Zionism and their supporters surfaced. [end recording]

House of Representatives Speaker Sulayman 'Arar called on the House to hold an emergency session tomorrow, Tuesday, to discuss the situation in the occupied territories in light of the Israeli massacre. Ghanim 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy National Assembly speaker, also told our correspondent for parliamentary affairs:

[Begin 'Aziz recording] We regret and strongly denounce the vile aggression against our Palestinian Arab people in Jerusalem today, which is part of a series of crimes by the Zionist entity against our Palestinian people. I believe that this crime would not have occurred were it not for the large-scale, vile military presence in the holy Arab land. This operation is a new aggression that supports the military presence in order to launch a larger aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation. Therefore, I believe that the Arabs should unify their ranks to get the American forces to leave the Arabian Peninsula and to repulse the Zionist entity. [End 'Aziz recording]

Minister Says Nation Concerned

JN0810182090 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Telephone interview with Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din, Information minister and acting foreign minister, by Ibrahim Shahzadah in Amman on 8 October—recorded]

[Text] [Shahzadah] Mr. Minister, while you are acting foreign minister, the Foreign Ministry today issued an official statement condemning the incident carried out by the occupation authorities which martyred and wounded a large number of people in the occupied city of Jerusalem. What steps will the government take concerning this criminal incident?

['Izz-al-Din] In fact, the government is trying to express the pain and anger of every Jordanian citizen as a result of the ugly criminal incident committed in the holy places, namely, in the al- Aqsa Mosque. Israel today repeated what it has done over the past years. It killed Palestinians and committed aggression against the holy places, challenging the feelings of the Muslims and the Arabs everywhere. The Jordanian Government is concerned about the incident. We will try to contact the various governments and international sides, which can assist in placing the Middle East issue at the center of attention. The international community has not yet moved to try to find a just and lasting solution to this issue. We will make every effort in cooperation with the Arab brothers and a number of international sides to focus on the Middle East issue, the Palestinian people's cause, and the sufferings of the Palestinian people. We will also try to draw attention to this issue in order to make progress toward finding a peaceful, just, and lasting solution in the Middle East.

[Shahzadah] Mr. Minister, the United Nations is holding its General Assembly session. How do you assess the role that the international community can play through the General Assembly in this incident?

['Izz-al-Din] In fact, the international community has a great responsibility toward the Palestine question. Israel was established as a result of a UN resolution. Israel has been supported over the past years as a result of UN resolutions. It is time that the Palestinian people be supported by the United Nations in establishing their state. I believe that the time is suitable now for concentrating on the Palestinian people's cause. All efforts should be united so that this issue can be dealt with in a radical and basic manner by concentrating on every way to achieve a peaceful settlement of that cause.

[Shahzadah] Thanks to Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din, information minister and acting foreign minister.

['Izz-al-Din] Thank you.

'Zionist Invasion' Predicted

JN0710100590 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 Oct 90 p 3

[Text] Amman—Lower House of Parliament member Layth Shubaylat Saturday appealed to the government to adopt measures to arm Jordanian citizens in order to prepare them to counter any aggression against Jordan.

Speaking at press conference at his office, Shubaylat, an independent Islamist, said he presented a memorandum last week to Prime Minister Mudar Badran and members of the House to adopt what he described as a "parliamentary initiative to arm the people and to establish a wide-scale popular resistance."

Shubaylat, who won a seat in parliamentary by-elections in 1984 and again last November, called on the prime minister to "turn Jordan into a jungle of weapons to be in harmony with our brother Iraq, where six million people—one third of the population—carry arms.

Shubaylat intends to run for the Lower House speakership on Nov. 17 when Parliament is due to reopen its regular session. The deputy ran as an independent Islamist candidate in last November's elections which eventually won him votes from both the Islamist and secular groups. He describes himself as "centrist" between the Muslim Brotherhood and leftist organisations both inside and outside Parliament.

The deputy stated in his memo to the prime minister that one million of the 3.5 million Jordanians must be allowed to carry light weapons and "organise in a wide-scale popular resistance, complementing the People's Army and supporting our armed forces."

Since the U.S.-led Western buildup began in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf, the Jordanian population had expressed at pro-Iraqi allies and demonstrations the desire for being allowed to carry arms to defend Jordan and Iraq should a Western or Israeli aggression occur.

Shubaylat indicated in his memo to Badran that if the prime minister did not act on this proposal, the Lower House may have to force the government out of office with a vote of no confidence.

The deputy said that consecutive Jordanian governments had made a mistake by keeping the people away from arms and "by basing our security policies on American promises that suddently fell apart as many expected."

Shubaylat, who intends to create a "nationalist Islamist" party which may include other independents and "tolerant and spiritualist" Islamists, such as Deputy Ya'qub Qirrish, told reporters he was still waiting for a response from the government in reply to his memo."

The outspoken deputy told the prime minister that if the people were armed, Israel would think twice before invading the country because "the real ally of the (Jordanian) army is the people and a properly-organised popular resistance."

"More than two months have passed since the Gulf crisis began, and our people remain very distant from preparedness in case of war," he said. "The battlefield does not end in Iraq, but will stretch to Palestine and Jordan."

Iraq is seriously threatened from the Western end of its borders (with Jordan) because the Americans and the Israelis are planning a Zionist invasion against Jordan to head towards the Western border of Iraq," Shubaylat said in his memo, which he read out to journalists.

He explained that arming the people did not necessarily mean having weapons in every home, but to have weapons available in security centres in every neighbourhood and as close as a few hundred metres from the homes.

In a separate memo to the 80 members of the Lower House, Shubaylat called on deputies to issue their own decisions and orders in the name of the people who voted for them.

"Since the beginning of the crisis the people have not been put in a state of preparedness for a war that is inevitable. This is to be blamed not only on the government, but we are to blame even more before our people and God," Shubaylat told Parliament members in his memo.

'Massive Protests' Planned

JN0910071090 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 Oct 90 p 1

[By JORDAN TIMES staff Reporter Maryam M. Shahin]

[Text] Amman—Reaction in Jordan to the killing of 30 Palestinians and the wounding of hundreds by Israeli soldiers at the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem came quickly as members of the Jordanian Women's Federation began a sit-in and hunger strike in front of the United Nations office. The women demanded that U.N. peacekeeping forces be sent to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip immediately to protect the civilian Arab population from whom the women described as "murderers."

"We cannot wait; we must begin our sit in tonight. The people in the West Bank are in danger, Jordan is in danger. The steps to create a massive transfer may have already begun," Layla Naffa', a woman leader, told a group of 50 women who had gathered to initiate a sit-in and hunger strike which they said would last indefinitely.

The number of women, who represent various politically organised and other non-political groups in Jordan, grew to around 100 later in the evening as they were also joined by men wishing to show their solidarity with their demands.

Asma' Khadir, a Jordanian human rights lawyer, urged all women in Jordan, Arab and foreign, to join the group in their demands to "stop the killings in the Holy Land."

Their demands, the women said, included the immediate implementation of all U.N. Security Council resolutions on the question of Palestine, the dispatch of U.N. peacekeeping forces to protect "the unarmed Arab population from Israeli bullets." The women also called on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to dispatch their officials to Jerusalem to protect cultural and historic monuments from destruction.

Meanwhile enraged Palestinians took to the streets in major refugee camps in Amman, Irbid and al-Zarqa' while others began organising massive protests for Tuesday.

"Our cries for justice have fallen on deaf ears for over 40 years and every time a massacre occurs the U.N. comes up with a statement of condemnation which in effect does nothing," said a prominent political activist in al-Baq'ah, the largest Palestinian refugee camp just outside of the capital.

"We have never and will never forget the issue of Palestine because we are the Palestinian people and as long as we live we will fight for our right to live in Palestine in peace. Every time the Israelis kill a Palestinian in Jerusalem they only make us more determined," said the activist. He added that a general strike and a massive demonstration encompassing all political groups in the country would take place as of 8 a.m. Tuesday in the al-Baq'ah camp.

As protesters took to the streets of refugee camps and in front of U.N. buildings, Hamas, the Palestinian faction of the Muslim Brotherhood, declared a three-day general strike in the occupied territories and called for avenging the killing of Palestinians in Jerusalem Monday.

In a press release signed by eight political committees in Jordan, mostly pan-Arab and left wing, both unionists, women and other organised groupings, called on Jordanians to raise black flags for three days, called on Muslims shaykhs to have non-stop readings of the Koran in the mosques and the ringing of church bells, urging the government to open popular military training camps to train and arm the population.

Al-Baq'ah Camp Protests

JN0810195090 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1815 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] In response to a call issued by al-Quds Radio, demonstrations were staged in al-Baq'ah camp [in Jordan] in denunciation of the holy Jerusalem massacre. Black flags were raised on the roofs of houses and calls were heard from the minarets of the camp mosques instructing and instigating people to undertake jihad and military action against the Zionist enemy. Our correspondent there said a mammoth popular march will proceed from the camp's club tomorrow.

Press Condemns Incident

JN0910091190

[Editorial report] All three Amman Arabic dailies AL-RA'Y, AL-DUSTUR, and SAWT AL-SHA'B and the English-language daily JORDAN TIMES highlight on their front pages and publish under banner headlines reports on the 8 October Temple Mount incidents. They also devote their editorials to commenting on the incidents.

AL-RA'Y features the following headlines: "Israel Commits Ugly Massacre in the Holy Jerusalem Mosque," "Some 23 Martyrs, Including the Imam of the Mosque, and Hundreds of Wounded and Detainees," and "Jordan Condemns the Massacres and Demands Intervention of the International Community."

In its editorial entitled "Our Single War From Jerusalem to Mecca" AL-RA'Y draws a parallel between the U.S. forces' "siege of Mecca and al-Madinah" and the Israeli forces' assault on the Jerusalem mosque and says it is "our single holy war" to defend every Muslim holy place and every inch of Arab territory. The editorial is being filed separately.

AL-DUSTUR features the following headlines: "Ugly Zionist Massacre in the al-Aqsa Courtyard," "The Enemy Seizes al-Aqsa Keys and Shuts Gaza and Schools Until Further Notice," "Iraq: The Battle in the Gulf and Palestine Has Become One," and "Crown Prince Hasan Condemns the Zionist Crime and Warns Against Pushing the Region Toward Religious Polarization."

In its editorial entitled "Massacre in the al-Aqsa Mosque Mihrab" AL-DUSTUR calls on the permanent member states of the UN Security Council to should their responsibility regarding the Temple Mount incidents and adopt resolutions against Israel similar to the ones they adopted on the Gulf crisis. The editorial is being filed separately.

SAWT AL-SHA'B features the following headlines: "River of Blessed Palestinian Blood Gushes from al-Aqsa To Build the State," and "Information Minister: This Is The Time For a Deep and Radical Presentation of the Palestine Question."

In its editorial entitled "Blessed Is the Blood Which Will Build the Palestinian State" SAWT AL-SHA'B says this is the right time to work for the objective of "establishing the independent Palestine state and resolving the question in a just, comprehensive, and radical manner." The paper warns that the "Monday massacre" could drag the entire region to a religious war unless serious efforts are made to reach a radical settlement of the Arabisraeli conflict.

JORDAN TIMES features the following headlines: "Massacre in Jerusalem," "Israelis Kill at Least 30 Palestinians at Haram al Sharif," "Crown Prince Condemns Killings as Outrageous" and "Jordan Calls For World Protection for Palestinians."

In its editorial entitled "Masssacre Calls For Response" JORDAN TIMES condemns the Temple Mount incident and wonders if the United States would veto any Security Council resolution calling for sending international forces to protect the Palestinians from Israeli bullets and represssion. The paper says this is the perfect time to test the credibility of "international legitimacy-loving nations," especially the United States.

All three Arabic dailies also publish in their inside pages statements signed by "The Muslim Brotherhood-Jordan," "Committee for Islamic Support for the Palestinian People," and "Islamic Resistance Movement-Hamas, Palestine" condemning the Temple Mount "massacre." The Muslim Brotherhood statement calls on "The Peninsula rulers to demand the withdrawal of the invading forces and to cleanse the Islamic lands of these forces since they are sharing the crime of the murderers on the land of Palestine." They also call for "the declaration of Jihad for the liberation of Palestine and the establishment of the al-Aqsa Army." The statement calls for prayers to be said for the souls of the Jerusalem martyrs in all major mosques in Amman today, Tuesday 9 October.

In its statement the Committee for Islamic Support for the Palestinian People calls for Jihad to expel "the cruasaders and Americans" from the Muslim holy lands. It also calls for prayers in the Amman mosques today. The Hamas statement condemns the "masacre" and declares a three-day general strike in all of Palestine.

Paper Condemns 'Massacre'

JN0910105890 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Oct 90 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "Massacre in the al-Aqsa Mosque Mihrab"]

[Text] Yesterday, Israel's true colors were revealed. Israel was exposed as a fascist, terrorist, and murderous state that does not commit itself to the rule of the law, that protects no rights, and that recognizes no legitimacy. This was shown when Israel perpetrated in cold blood another horrendous Zionist massacre at the al-Aqsa mosque and dealt with Palestinian civilians there with unprecedented cruelty, which resulted in scores of martyrs and hundreds of people being wounded within a few hours.

Faced with these Israeli crimes which are repeatedly carried out against us, we do not want to mourn by slapping ourselves in anger and wrath or to shower the occupiers with vituperations and condemnations which would have no effect on the Israeli rightist government. No, we would like to draw from the details of the horrendous incident in the Jerusalem holy mosque courtyard all that would contribute to the formulation of a political proposal that might go beyond any show of mourning and sadness and any other useless manifestation of anger that does not enable us to achieve our desired objectives.

This is because Israel's perpetration of this ghastly massacre is not an unfamiliar Israeli practice. It is not something that can be isolated from the chain of Israeli practices that are notorious for their excessive bloodiness. This is merely another big massacre in a long chain of crimes that Israel has been perpetrating against the Palestinian people for 23 years.

In light of this, we believe that the continued Israeli occupation is mainly responsible for the perpetration of this long chain of ugly crimes. Of particular significance here is the fact that the massacres previously committed by Israel, including the one in the al-Burayj camp a few days ago, were not met with the condemnation and denunciation they should have elicited. In some cases, the United States chose to cover up for such crimes and to obstruct the passage of any UN Security Council [UNSC] resolution condemning Israeli practices and policies in the occupied territories.

Hence, we believe that the UNSC should be immediately called into session to place the five permanent members of the UNSC before their responsibilities toward the savage crimes being perpetrated in the occupied Arab territories. We would like to see the positions of these states which hastened to secure the issuance of international resolutions against Iraq and bombarded us with much talk on the new world order, international legitimacy, and the similar jargon that the five permanent members of the UNSC have in their pouches.

It goes without saying that the only way to prevent Israel from continuing to perpetrate these massacres lies in placing the occupied territories and the unarmed Palestinian people under the protection of the UNSC which is now called on to pass the same resolutions that it passed on the Gulf crisis, including the blockade, isolation, and sanctions resolutions—resolutions stipulating that such measures will continue to be enforced until Israel returns to its senses and stops its continuous violations of the most basic human rights in the occupied territories.

What took place at the Jerusalem holy mosque yesterday will remain cogent evidence condemning not only Israel, which is in the habit of violating all laws and all principles of international legitimacy, but also all the capitals of the big and small powers which have continued to turn a blind eye to such violations and to lend a deaf ear to all the sincere appeals and calls made for the vindication of right and the establishment of justice, security, and peace in this region. The big powers have continued to show duplicity and use double standards when dealing with the issues of this region.

We wonder whether Washington from now on will halt its duplicitous behavior in the region? Will Paris play the role that befits a civilized country as regards the cause of peace in this region? Furthermore, will Mrs. Margaret Thatcher recall that her country has a historic responsibility regarding the injustice, repression, and mass killings in occupied Palestine? Will Moscow pause for one moment to wonder about the outcome of its emigration policy? Will it reach the conclusion that this policy only resulted in encouraging the Zionists to persist in their demonstration of further fanaticism and in their continued pursuit of an expansionist policy in the occupied Palestinian territories?

While posing these questions, we are aware of how far the members of the UNSC have gone in focusing their undivided attention on the Gulf crisis. However, this might not prompt them to give even the scantiest attention to what has taken place at the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque courtyard—to the unprecendented show of disregard for human life, and also to the unmistakably clear threats directed against the Muslims' sanctities and holy shrines. This prompts us to direct our attention to the Arab and Islamic states and to appeal to the minds and faithful hearts urging a demonstration of unity by this nation—a demonstration of unity that would help regain rights and save the first kiblah [direction to which Muslims turn in prayer] from the Zionist schemes and plans which are no longer hidden.

The credibility of the new world order is currently at stake. Likewise, the seriousness of the UNSC resolutions is being put to the test right now. As for the cries and shouts of the martyrs which resounded in the al-Aqsa Mosque mihrab, they will remain with us to expose the false people who seek to falsify facts and realities.

Hasan Sees Iraqi Concessions on Kuwait Possible

OW0810083790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0739 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] Amman, Oct. 8 KYODO—Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan said Sunday he believes the Persian Gulf crisis cannot be resolved without solving the problems of Palestine and Lebanon, warning that a break-out of war would engulf the whole region.

"If war occurs, it can only be total. There is no way there could be a partial war, or an incremental war," said Hasan, King Husayn's younger brother and closest confidant, in a meeting with Japanese reporters.

"The (Kuwait) crisis cannot be solved without solving the other (territorial) problems of Palestine and Lebanon," he said of the Gulf crisis which stemmed from Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait.

Hasan, however, predicted there could be a diplomatic solution.

"If Iraq could make concessions to Iran after a decade of war, I'd be surprised if it couldn't make concessions to a fellow Arab country like Kuwait," he said.

Hasan stressed the need for guarantees of regional security, citing "confidence-building measures such as the dismantlement of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and Israel and everywhere else."

Regional security requires, among other things, "a political route map for the area involving human rights and democracy for all, including of course the Palestinians," he said.

Another requirement, he said, is "a better economic future for the region with a fairer share-out of its resources."

"Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, whatever else he has done, has opened up the issue of the need to resolve the problem of rich and poor" in the Middle East.

Hasan pointed out that "there will be 300 million people from Cairo to Islamabad" by the end of this century and the gap between the rich and the poor in the region needs to be resolved.

Hasan said his country is the principal victim of the Gulf crisis, except Kuwait itself.

"With 50 percent of its GNP lost, Jordan is under greater strain—both from the effect of applying sanctions and from the loss of remittances from Jordanian workers in Iraq and Kuwait—than either Turkey or Egypt," he said.

Hasan described the Gulf crisis as "Orwellian" because he said, as in the novel "1984," nothing is quite what is seems to be.

Jordan has been blamed, both by the United States and Saudi Arabia, for counterbalancing its support of U.N. sanctions and its opposition to Iraq's seizure of Kuwait, by making Amman the diplomatic capital of the Middle East—the center of a frantic search for a compromise in the Gulf crisis.

British Authorities Accused of Harassment

JN0710122090 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 7 Oct 90 p 20

[By Caroline Faraj]

[Text] It seems that the British authorities are still insisting on placing illegal obstacles in the way of Jordanians, especially businessmen, under the pretext of merely implementing UN resolutions.

For, a few days ago, the British authorities conducted a thorough investigation of a Jordanian businessman residing in Britain, about unclear information contained in a message that he had received by fax from his partners in Amman. What is strange about this incident is that, during the investigation they brought along copies of this message, in addition to information they had recorded through his telephone contacts with a number of countries.

For its part, AL-RA'Y has contacted a number of Jordanian businessmen who have offices and agents residing in Britain. They said that all their correspondence in which machines linked with satellites are used, for example telephone, facsimile, and telex, has been under surveillance since the beginning of the crisis.

It is worth mentioning that the customs and security men at Heathrow Airport are still, up to now, conducting thorough inspections of Jordanian businessmen coming from the Gulf, and seizing copies of private papers and documents in their possession, thus ignoring all international civil aviation laws.

A Jordanian businessman told AL-RA'Y that, on his return from Britain recently, and while customs and security men have been carrying out these strange measures at the airport, he noticed that the British security authorities called all the phone numbers written down in his private phone notebook, especially those living in England, on the pretext that they wanted to make sure that these people have not violated UN resolutions or concluded deals with Iraq through Jordanian businessmen.

An expert on communications has said to AL-RA'Y that the United States and Britain are using an electronic coverage system to carry out jamming and espionage through satellites spread all over the world for this purpose.

It is to be recalled that the United States announced that it had used the electronic coverage system to spy on [Panamanian] leader Noriega to arrest him.

It is also noteworthy that the British authorities have also frozen the assets deposited in British banks of a number of Jordanian expatriates who reside in Kuwait and Iraq.

The question remains: For how long will the interests of Jordan and Jordanians be subjected to arbitrary measures and the violation of international laws and norms? Has the Security Council entrusted the British authorities with implementing its resolutions through imposing an embargo on Jordan and Jordanians by employing the devices of espionage?

These measures must stop once and for all, and an official explanation must be made available on the reasons for such harassment against Jordanians in particular.

Fadlallah on Prospects for Hostage Releases

NC0810073990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] In an interview with the British newspaper THE INDEPENDENT, Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah called for separating the issue of the release of Western hostages in Lebanon from that of the release of Arab prisoners in Israel and south Lebanon.

Fadlallah added that the change in the political climate in the region and the world could result in a positive conclusion for the hostage issue. He said that the question of the hostages could be resolved in such a way so that none of the parties is subjected to blackmail. He noted that the release of a number of Lebanese detainees from al-Khiyam prison last week is part of the general climate that could lead to the end of the Western hostage crisis in Lebanon.

Al-Huss Remarks on Al-Aqsa Violence

NC0910090390 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 9 Oct 90

[Text] Commenting on the Jerusalem massacre, Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss said: This is not Israel's first massacre. Israel's history is replete with collective crimes, whether in occupied Palestine, Lebanon, or in other Arab territories that have been subjected to its aggression. In its practices, Israel has always presented the ugliest picture of the terrorist state.

If this massacre in Jerusalem provokes grief and anger because of its enormity and savagery, it also reminds the world that there is a central Arab issue—the Palestine cause—the cause of the free man in his land that has been and will remain alive in the hearts of the noble strugglers and every Arab, no matter how many anxieties and problems they must face. Perhaps this terrible massacre will awaken the consciences of the decision-makers in the world so that the international community may act to find a fair solution to a just issue that is one of the most explosive issues in the region and the world.

Muslim Groups Respond to Al-Aqsa Incident

Hizballah

NC0910070790 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 9 Oct 90

[Hizballah statement on 8 October Al-Aqsa violence—date and place not given]

[Text] The usurper Zionist entity massacred our people in occupied Palestine again and the sons of our Muslim Palestinian people have recorded a new epic in defense of the al-Aqsa Mosque. Once again, the Muslim Palestinian people confirm that it is they who are defending Muslim sanctities, at a time when the powers of world atheism are defiling Muslim sanctities in Mecca and Medina, and while the mujahidin of the Islamic resistance—who devoted themselves to the cause of liberating Jerusalem—are being surrounded.

The Zionist enemy would not have dared to commit this horrible massacre were it not for reactionary Arab rulers' preoccupation with their differences and their perfidious stances on the cause of their people.

While we denounce and condemn this Zionist massacre, we pay tribute to the standfastness of our mujahidin brothers in Palestine. We assure them that we will back them in their defense of Muslim sanctities. We appeal to all Muslims and the masses in the nation of the party of God to denounce the massacre and voice their solidarity with the Palestinian people, by declaring a public mourning on Tuesday and Wednesday. We invite all Muslims to take part in a march to voice solidarity with the intifadah and defend al-Aqsa Mosque. The march will set out from the Imam al-Rida mosque tomorrow, Wednesday, after noon prayers.

Islamic Jihad

NC0910114490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1135 GMT 9 Oct 90

[Text] The Islamic Jihad Organization in Beirut has called on its members and military units to reply to the Israeli [8 October Jerusalem] massacre.

'Awn Urges Army To Revolt Against Government

NC0810163690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] Former Army Commander General Michel 'Awn has said that events have unequivocally proven that the Lebanese war is a war of others on Lebanese territory. During a news conference held at noon today, 'Awn stepped up his campaign against the president and the prime minister, charging that the government has committed war crimes, the most grotesque of which is the blockade war being carried out calmly and with the sponsorship of other nations.

In his news conference, 'Awn lashed out at the the Lebanese ambassadors abroad, accusing them of telling lies to and deceiving Lebanese communities by saying there is no blockade. He said there is an all-out comprehensive blockade imposed on the people.

'Awn called on the army anew to revolt and declared his welcome of the call for a real dialogue. He demanded that the topics of the dialogue be specified. 'Awn pointed out that he did not reject the papal nuncio's initiative. It is they who rejected it in view of their continued blockade, 'Awn added.

Media Condemn Al-Aqsa Mosque Violence

Radio Commentary

JN0810174790 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Listening to the news of the latest bloody massacre committed by Zionist settlers and occupation forces against our people in occupied Jerusalem, one cannot help wondering whether the enemy's oppression and aggression could have been carried to such extremes had it not been for the Gulf crisis, which has diverted attention from the savage practices and repressive measures in the occupied Arab land. Would these Zionist settler extremists have felt so free to aggress against, violate, and defile Islamic sanctities? Would the occupation authorities have connived with the settlers and opened up on Arabs if the world had not been preoccupied with a Gulf issue that has taken the focus away from developments in Palestine and other occupied Arab land?

Today's events and other indications demonstrate that grievous harm has been done to the Palestinian cause. The UN General Assembly and the Security Council have been busy denouncing the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and demanding the immediate, unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait, when otherwise the Palestinian question would have topped the agenda of the General Assembly. Not to mention the many resolutions passed by the Assembly supporting Palestinian rights, and condemning the Zionist enemy's criminal acts. Furthermore, the Iraqi invasion has handed Israel a rare and precious opportunity to bring in massive numbers of Jewish immigrants to settle occupied land and then create new facts there, when prior to the invasion, UN resolutions condemned Israel and demanded respect for the will of the Palestinian people and their rights to their land and self-determination.

The arbitrary attempts by the Iraqi Government to establish a link between the volatile Gulf crisis, triggered by the occupation of the territory of one Arab state by another Arab state and the Mideast crisis, generated by the occupation of Palestine by alien Zionist invaders and their recourse to expansionist wars to grab Arab land and rights have served to bolster Israel's arguments. The Zionist enemy is using the Iraqi invasion to further its aggressive plans, and, toward that end, is citing irresponsible official Iraqi statements on brandishing chemical weapons, the Israeli argument being that if certain Arabs have wiped off the map an Arab state that is a member of the Arab League and the United Nations without the slightest regard for international law, would these same Arabs have any scruples about attacking Israel itself and, if possible, throwing the Jews into the sea? The Israelis further argue that if the occupation of Kuwait is permissible, the Zionists are then entitled to hold on to occupied Palestine—the so-called biblical land of their fathers and forefathers.

Since the Zionist invasion of Arab land began, the Arabs have successfully countered the tendentious enemy propaganda and for years refuted it to world public opinion, until in the end they managed to win for themselves an international constituency opposed to the Zionist invasion and expansion, and demand that Israel respect the will of the Palestinian people and their right to life, freedom, and statehood. Scores of UN resolutions have been passed in support of Arab rights and against Israeli policies. How, then, does the Iraqi Government sanction invading an Arab state that is a member of the Arab League and the United Nations? How, then, does the Iraqi Government treat its occupation of Kuwait on par with Israel's occupation of Arab land? Has Arab territory no sanctity in the eyes of the Iraqi Government? Kuwait had been one of the staunchest supporters of Iraq, even when the latter was engaged in a wrongful war with Iran.

Clearly, Iraq is arrayed against the consensus of an international community determined to see international law enforced and Kuwait returned to its people. It is common knowledge that continuous consultations are afoot in the UN corridors to fashion a resolution to end Iraqi occupation by military force. It is also common knowledge that the loser from a military flareup brought on by Iraq's intransigence will not only be Iraq, but all Arabs. Is it right, then, to ask why Iraq and the Arabs should pay such an oppressive tax? If the aim of the Iraqi Government has been to break the logjam of the Palestine issue, the upshot has been a most grievous damage to the Palestine cause. If the aim of the annexation of Kuwait and the takeover of its oilfields has been to gain territory for Iraq, the end result has been to create an explosive problem for Iraq and to incur such huge losses that could never be recouped by Kuwait's oil. In any case, oil exports from Iraq and Kuwait are now cut off, and Iraq is under siege. The Iraqi Government this time around also missed the mark. It erred when it invaded Iran, and again when it marched into Kuwait. Indeed, the second blunder has proved a devastating disaster. This huge blunder can only be rectified by Iraq's immediate withdrawal from Kuwait in compliance with the will of the Arab nation and in furtherance of the Palestine cause. This is because an Iraqi pullout would put the international community squarely before its responsibilities toward the Palestinian people, who are pressing for the enforcement of UN resolutions and the restitution of their rights. An Iraqi withdrawal would serve to restore Arab solidarity, rally the Arabs around their central cause in Palestine, channel their efforts toward freeing our kinfolk in the occupied territory from the claws of tyrannic occupiers, and amputate the sinful hand that feels free to do whatever harm it wants to our people.

AL-BA'TH Reacts

JN0910075090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 9 Oct 90

[From the press review]

[Text] In its comment under the headline "The Massacre Against the Smoke of the Gulf," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Through the massacre it perpetrated against the Palestinian people in holy Jerusalem yesterday, Israel proves, as it has always proved throughout its aggressive, bloody history in occupied Palestine, that it is determined to continue with its plans to annihilate the Palestinian people with the aim of achieving its expansionist program in defiance of our Arab nation, peace-loving peoples, and the international will. The massacre, which Israel admitted, falls within the framework of the Zionist settlers' provocative actions, with the supervision and planning of the Zionist government, to desecrate and destroy the Arab and Islamic sanctities in Jerusalem and all Palestine.

AL-BA'TH adds: Israel has chosen this specific time to implement its conspiracies, exploiting the crisis created by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the preoccupation of world public opinion with this crisis.

AL-BA'TH says: The logic of aggression, which the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait sought to justify, has become a pretext used by the Zionist fascism to complete its aggressive plans against the Arab land and people.

AL-BA'TH stresses that in light of all these signs, through this view, out of our pan-Arab position, and based on Syria's historical responsibility toward the Palestine question, we reiterate our call for the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of the situation to what it was before 2 August so as to reactivate Arab solidarity and confront the danger that is always above all dangers.

Offensive Action Ruled Out for National Forces

JN0710181590 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Oct 90

[Text] Staff Major General 'Ali Habib, commander of the Syrian forces in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, said in a statement published today in the United Arab Emirates newspaper AL-KHALIJ that Syrian forces will not take part in any offensive operation, and that they came to defend the Saudi territories and the Islamic holy shrines in Mecca and Medina. He warned Iraq of the losses it will sustain if it undertakes a military action. The Syrian official stressed his country's readiness to send more troops to Saudi Arabia.

Al-Shar', 'Abd-al-Majid Stress Cooperation

JN0710132690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Oct 90

[Text] Damascus—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egypt's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, director of the Egyptian President's Office for Political Affairs, arrived in Damascus today on a visit to Syria. They were received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur, heads of the Foreign Ministry's Arab Homeland and Protocol Departments; the Egyptian ambassador in Damascus, and embassy staff.

On arrival Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid gave a statement to journalists in which he said: I am happy to have this opportunity to visit Damascus to meet with President Hafiz al-Asad and the brother senior officials in Syria, and to hold consultations and exchange viewpoints with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' within the framework of the coordination and cooperation that exists between Egypt and Syria. This is necessary at this stage to achieve the objectives that Egypt, Syria, and the fraternal Arab countries seek; namely, to secure peace and stability in this region in the critical conditions through which it is passing.

He added: I am certain that consultations, exchanging viewpoints, and coordination will be for the benefit of the two countries and all Arab brothers, and will put an end to the situation that has resulted from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. We and the Syrian brothers have full understanding on this problem, and, God willing, this visit will yield good results for the Arab nation.

Answering a question on his assessment of Syrian-Egyptian relations, he said: Egyptian-Syrian relations are at their best. There will be a committee meeting at the highest levels, and we hope we will agree on a date at the nearest possible time, maybe this month, God willing.

Answering journalists' questions, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said: We are very happy about the visit by brothers Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Dr. Usamah al-Baz, and their delegation. We welcome all of them to our country, Syria. We are certain that our talks will have positive results that will benefit the two countries, Syria and Egypt, and the Arab countries, as well as security and stability in the region.

Al-Shar' added: We believe that cooperation between Syria and Egypt is the cornerstone of sound cooperation among all Arab states within the framework of the Arab League. We will seek to restore as much cohesion as we can to Arab solidarity. We will also seek to stress the important role of the Arab League. Through the talks, we hope to achieve unified and joint results and stands for the benefit of the entire Arab nation.

Answering a question on whether or not the talks will deal with the situation in the Gulf, al-Shar' said: This subject will occupy a large part of our talks because it is the subject of the hour, especially since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has brought about a major disturbance in the region, and that situation must be changed through consultations with the brothers in Egypt and the Arab states.

Further on Meeting

JN0710215790 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 7 Oct 90

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today received Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, Yusuf Shakkur, assistant foreign minister, and Taha al-Khayrat, director of the Arab Homeland Department at the Foreign Ministry, attended the meeting.

On the Egyptian side, the meeting was attended by Dr. Usamah al- Baz, director of the president's office for political affairs, and Dr. Mustafa 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mursi, Egyptian ambassador in Damascus.

During the meeting, the two sides held consultations and exchanged opinions about the international situation and all aspects of the Arab situation, particularly the Gulf crisis, which is the result of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. They also discussed relations between Egypt and Syria and their importance in redressing the Arab situation.

The two sides reiterated their firm stands on the need for Iraq's unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait and the reinstitution of legitimacy to this fraternal country. They also stressed the importance of averting the catastrophes of a devastating war in Iraq, and the need to make efforts toward achieving an integrated Arab stand that would contribute to the Iraqi withdrawal and to restoring the situation as it was before 2 August 1990. The two sides welcomed the nonaligned states' stand that was adopted during the foreign ministers' meeting in New York on 4 October, which clearly expressed the Nonaligned Movement's rejection of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, because of the importance of this stand, especially since it is an expression of the South states' opinion, and because of this movement's weight in international politics.

The two sides stressed their determination to resume meetings and consultations with the objective of coordinating their positions regarding future steps in the interest of the Arab nation, its security and stability. In regard to bilateral relations, the talks dealt with the upcoming meeting of the higher joint committee between the two fraternal countries.

Japanese Foreign Minister Arrives for Meetings

JN0910073890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 9 Oct 90

[Text] Damascus—Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama arrived in Damascus yesterday on a visit to Syria. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar', the directors of the Asian and Protocol Departments at the Foreign Ministry, the Japanese ambassador to Damascus, and the embassy staff.

In a statement to journalists on arrival, Nakayama said: During the visit, I will have the honor to meet with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and convey to him a message from Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu. He added: Syria has always been and is still one of the most important political and cultural centers in the Arab world. It plays a key role in the development of the situation in the Middle East, including the issue of achieving peace in the region, and the Lebanese issue. This visit to this important country is not only a source of happiness to me, but I also believe it will help promote dialogue between Japan and Syria in particular, and between Japan and the region in general.

He noted that Japan and Syria have for a long time been working to promote ties of friendship and cooperation: My visit is aimed at further promoting the existing good relations between our two countries through the frank exchange of opinions with senior Syrian officials on the current international situation and relations between the two countries.

Nakayama added: I was very pleased to meet with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in New York in October last year and at the end of last September. We have real and cordial relations of trust. This is the third time I have met with him to hold further talks.

Answering a question on whether he will discuss the Gulf situation and the issue of extending aid during his talks in Damascus, Nakayama said: Yes, during this visit, I would like to exchange frank viewpoints and opinions with the Syrian side regarding the issues of common interest, including the international situation headed by the Gulf crisis. We will also tackle the issue of extending aid to the region's states effectively and enthusiastically.

Answering another question on whether he expects a military or a political solution to the Gulf crisis, Nakayama said: I stress the need for a peaceful solution. We will exert all efforts to reach a peaceful solution. Japan adopts a clear stand toward the Gulf crisis and stresses the need for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and the reinstitution of the legitimate Kuwaiti Government. We call on Iraq to implement these basic principles. We do not accept Iraq's action, especially as it violates the international norms and law.

Concluding his statement, Nakayama expressed appreciation for Syria's decisive stand toward the Gulf crisis.

Al-Shar' Meets Shevardnadze in New York

JN0410175290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 4 Oct 90

[Text] New York—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met in New York last night with USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. Attending the meeting were Tarasov, assistant USSR foreign minister for Near Eastern Affairs [title as heard], and the Diya'allah al-Fattal, Syrian permanent representative at the United Nations. During the meeting, discussions dealt with bilateral relations, the situation in the region, and the developments resulting from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

TISHRIN Urges Solution in Beirut

JN0410115790 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0750 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] Damascus, 3 Oct (SANA)—The newspaper TISHRIN has drawn attention to the need to end the abnormal situation, impose the supremacy of the Constitution, and spread the legitimate authority into East Beirut, especially after the recent massacre that claimed the lives of a large number of innocent people.

In a commentary today, the paper points to the sectarian practices and the continuation of internecine fighting in the eastern part of Beirut. It says: The citizens of East Beirut have suffered troubles and catastrophes as a result of the attempts of the enemies of accord to cut away this part of Lebanon and to turn it into a base for sectarianism, which has caused grave damage to the homeland as a whole. These catastrophes escalated in the war that erupted between 'Awn's forces and Ja'ja''s militias, and which claimed the lives of many people, destroyed innocent citizens' property, and forced them to evacuate to the point where all the people are now seeking the help of the state and calling on it to assume its responsibilities toward its sons to save them from the tyrants who abuse the sanctity of the law and the Constitution.

TISHRIN praises the legitimate Lebanese Government's efforts under President al-Hirawi to end all forms of rebellion peacefully. It stresses that the enemies of accord have persistently attempted to foil these efforts, to take advantage of the homeland and the citizens, to strike against the national accord, and to impede the unification of the Army.

The paper says: Tens of citizens were killed or wounded as a result of reckless shelling, which is part of the series of acts of death and destruction being pursued by the enemies of accord who refuse to lay down their arms and insist on drowning the homeland in blood, and on destroying what is left of Lebanon. The Lebanese people, however, have exposed these people for what they are, and therefore, they want to come under the legitimate government with all that it represents in terms of unity, accord, stability, and amity, and to end the militias' control over their destinies and future.

Concluding, the paper points to the importance of the recent measures adopted by the Lebanese Government to besiege the rebels. It stresses that these measures are aimed at saving the citizens in East Beirut and at ending hegemony and tyranny against them.

Citizens Assess Losses in Kuwait

JN0410171890 Damascus SANA in Arabic
1615 GMT 4 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Damascus, 4 Oct (SANA)—The Interior Ministry requested Syrian citizens and their dependents who are residents of the State of Kuwait and have returned to the homeland to fill in special forms provided by the Ministry in order to assess their losses and present the assessment to Kuwaiti officials, so that they may be able to claim their rights in the future. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Najibullah, Khaliqyar Hail German Unification

LD0510095990 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0450 GMT 5 Oct 90

[Text] [no placename as received] Oct. 3, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] has communicated today a congratulatory message addressed to Richard von Weisacker president of the Federal Republic of Germany on the occasion of the reunification of the FRG-GDR to Bonn.

With much pleasure, on behalf of the people and state of the Republic of Afghanistan and on my own, I want to deliver my heartfelt regards and greetings on the reunification of the two German states to you and through you to all people of the United Germany, the message emphasizes. I firmly believe in that formation of a united Germany not only will help in ensurance of peace and security in Europe, but also will help in consolidation the process of peace and stability in the world too.

The Afghan people highly respect reunification of the two German states stemming from the firm will of the United German state and consider this reunification as very useful for peaceful life of the all united German people, the message stresses. I wish that, friendly relations between the peoples of Afghanistan and FRG having long roots and are with the conformity of interest of the two country's people will further expand and develop, the message concludes. [sentence as received]

Also Fazl Haq Khaliqyar RA prime minister has sent a congratulatory message addressed to Helmut Kohl FRG chanceller on the same occasion to Bonn today. The reunification of the two German states, the message stresses, will put a direct effect on expansion of friendly relations between the peoples and governments of the RA-FRG, world people as well as consolidation of international security.

Fighting Continues in Central Province, Kabul

Officer Acknowledges Capture

BK0510121590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1124 GMT 5 Oct 90

[Text] Kabul, Oct 5 (AFP)—Mujahidin resistance fighters have seized a provincial capital in central Afghanistan after overrunning its 500-man garrison, a top Afghan military officer acknowledged here Friday. Deputy Defence Minister Muhammad Nabi 'Azimi told reporters that an unspecified number of mujahidin surprised the "small garrison" in Tarin Kowt, the capital of Oruzgan Province overnight Wednesday.

"Through the betrayal of the governor 'Abdul Shakur and some of his colleagues, they (the mujahidin) were able to come and take Tarin Kowt," General 'Azimi said, confirming mujahidin claims that they had captured the town. Tarin Kowt is the first provincial capital to fall into the hands of the mujahidin since Soviet troops completed their withdrawal from Afghanistan in February last year. Gen. 'Azimi said several security posts in the province had also fallen and that the fate of the 500 men in the Tarin Kowt garrison was not immediately clear. He said government troops had however put up a "brave fight" defending the garrison, though they had failed in the end. "Mujahidin casualties may have been very heavy," he said.

"The fall of the small town of one and a half square kilometers (0.5 square mile) cannot be compared to the successes of government troops" elsewhere in the country against the resistance, he said, adding that the government would shortly recapture the town. A government spokesman late Thursday had denied mujahidin claims that Tarin Kowt had fallen following three weeks of secret negotiations between the resistance and the governor.

Diplomats here said the loss of Tarin Kowt would be a serious embarrassment to the government of President Najibullah, who has been consolidating his position both militarily and politically since the Soviet withdrawal.

Gen. 'Azimi accused the Pakistani military and its intelligence service of supporting and fuelling the mujahidin attacks against key towns and against the capital of Kabul. He said he had "reliable reports" the Pakistani military intelligence agency, the Inter Services Intelligence, had given the mujahidin two months to take a key town inside Afghanistan before the onset of winter.

Mujahidin Commanders Killed

BK0710135590 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 7 Oct 90 p 8

[Text] Peshawar, Oct 6—Zahid Ibrahimi, the Jihad amir of Hezb-e eslami, Afghanistan (Hikmatyar) in Nangarhar Province, was killed along with six other eminent Mujahidin commanders, in Robat District Friday night, when a rocket smashed the hut where they were counselling. The other victims included commanders Haji Nausher Khan, Syed Hakim, Azizullah Sheenuk, Babrak, Ghulam Haider, Mamoor, Awal Jan and an eminent mujahid, Leewanay.

Soon after the commanders went in counselling, at 10.00 p.m. they were hit by a rocket. The bodies of most of the commanders were blown to pieces. Their dead bodies were shifted to Peshawar Saturday where they were buried at different places amidst touching scenes.

Mujahidin Fortify Position

BK0710143090 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 7 Oct 90 p 6

[Text] London, Oct 6—The Afghan Mujahidin are fortifying their position after the capture of Tarin Kowt, headquarters of Oruzgan province, latest reports from the central Afghan province said.

The Mujahidin were carrying heavy weapons including and aircraft guns to Tarin Kowt from Zabol and Qandahar provinces.

It is to be recalled that the Mujahidin had liberated Tarin Kowt in 1989 after the pullout of the Soviet troops but the Kabul forces with the help of the air force had reoccupied the city. Now on Oct. 3, when the provincial governor surrendered to the Mujahidin and the Mujahidin took over the town, they are taking measures to protect the town from air attacks.

The men of commander Zahir last day conducted a missile attack on a vehicle carrying the officials of the provincial administration of Mujahidin in liberated Konarha province as a result of which four people were martyred and five others were injured. Those who were martyred also included security in charge of Konarha sub-division Haji Mohammad Hussain and incharge Educational Affairs Hazrat Nabi.

According to information there was a family feud few months back in which brother of commander Zahir was killed. The officials of the Imaraat-i-Islami, the administrative body of the Mujahidin had taken into custody the accused persons who were still in the jail.

Gulbuddin Group Leaders Killed

LD0710143190 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1030 GMT 7 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Zahed Ebrahimi, the leader of an extremist Gulbuddin group, was crushed last night as a result of combat operations by the units and companies of the armed forces stationed in Nangarhar Province. The BIA military section reports that, in the course of these operations, Haji Nasher, Azizullah Shanik, Babrak, Gholam Hayder, Mojahed Laywani, Sayed Hakim, and Mamur Bajal, leaders in the same group who were accompanying Zahed, were killed, along with a number of their men. The units and companies also captured new positions while en route to Sorkh Dewar. [passage omitted]

Government Reports Kabul Fighting

BK0710144190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1417 GMT 7 Oct 90

[Text] Kabul, Oct 7 (AFP)—Heavy fighting was raging Sunday on the southern outskirts of the Afghan capital where government troops and mujahidin guerrillas were locked in combat, an official spokesman said. Two mujahidin infantry units were intercepted 40 kilometers (25 miles) south of the city center Saturday carrying large stocks of rockets, missile, arms and ammunition, spokesman Humayun Mukammel said.

He said 90 surface-to-surface missiles, 13 long-range rockets and a large number of automatic weapons and explosives had been captured from the mujahidin so far. Two mujahidin commanders and two saudi mercenaries had been seriously wounded in the fighting which was continuing Sunday midway between Kabul and the border of Logar Province. He did not reveal casualties on the government side.

In a similar operation just northeast of the city in the Kohi Safi mountain region, troops killed 15 mujahidin and recovered explosives and communications equipment, he said. The government statements came amid reports that the mujahidin were bracing for a full scale attack on Kabul after their success four days ago in capturing a small provincial capital in central Afghanistan.

The Kabul government admitted that the mujahidin had overrun a 500-man garrison to take Tarin Kot, the capital of Uruzgan Province. The government has said it would move shortly to recapture Tarin Kot, but Mr. Mukammel said he had "no precise reports" from the provincial capital.

He said however that authorities here had information that the mujahidin were preparing intensified rocketting of Kabul in the next few weeks, adding that Pakistan military intelligence was behind the plan and that Kabul was ready to meet the threat. "We are assuring the citizens of Kabul that the armed forces are fully prepared to defend the city from enemy attack," he said, ruling out a frontal assault on the capital.

Mujahidin guerrillas are fighting to overthrow the Soviet-backed government here which they see as an imposed communist regime and a vestige of the Soviet occupation. The government denies that it is communist and charges the mujahidin with acting on behalf of foreign powers.

Rebels Capture Iranian Communists

BK0810150790 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 8 Oct 90 p 5

[Text] Peshawar, Oct. 7—A Mujahidin source in Ghazni province reports to MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] that in an ambush, the Mujahidin killed Khakil, the so-called chief of the national reconciliation along with his five militiamen and burned three military vehicles in Khaja Omri district on Oct. 1.

The chief of the national reconciliation and a number of his militiamen had gone to Khaja Omri on a propaganda campaign against the Mujahidin where he was killed in an ambush.

Mujahidin of Paghman, under commander Khanjar, attacked the communist regime's headquarters of 4th Army Operatory Division in Baghi Dawod area of Paghman District with heavy machineguns. They killed six soldiers and destroyed two tanks. Mujahidin also captured a number of Iranian volunteer communists in Herat.

Mujahidin also carried out a joint operation on the communist regime forces in Dahai Dulaggai and Dahnai Zulfiqar areas of Herat on Russian border on Oct. 4 and claimed to have captured the areas. Here also Mujahidin arrested a number of Iranian volunteer communists while some crossed over the Russian border.

Meanwhile, the mujahidin captured Kamar Kulaghi's headquarter on Torghondai-Herat highway and made 60 officers and soldiers prisoners. 140 assorted weapons, four military vehicles and one tank were taken as booty from the captured headquarters. Mujahidin suffered no loss.

According to another report, the Mujahidin attacked the regime forces in Qalai Shahi area of Mohammad Agha district of Lowgar province, and destroyed one tank and two military vehicles on Oct. 1. Fifteen people were killed.

In Nangarhar two Brigadiers of the Kabul regime were killed along with 13 military personnel including officers when Mujahidin attacked the regime military positions at Katraghe and Surkh Deewal Saturday, [6 October] reports Afghan News Agency (ANA).

Two tanks of the Kabul regime were also destroyed in this attack. Mujahidin were successful to push back the regime forces from the Kattaghe and Surkh Deewal areas. The firing of long-range missiles is still continuing between the Mujahidin and the regime forces around the besieged city of Jalalabad.

Six Supply Convoys Destroyed

LD0810174190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] Six supply convoys of the extremists have been destroyed as a result of the air force raids in Chak in Vardak Province and Dobandi and Da'ud Kheyl areas in Lowgar Province. The military section of BAKHTAR reports that as an upshot of the raids, 100 enemy motor vehicles have been burned and destroyed.

Rebel Rockets Attack Kabul

BK0910091490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0901 GMT 9 Oct 90

[Text] Kabul, Oct 9 (AFP)—The Afghan capital came under heavy rocket fire as government troops stepped up artillery and air attacks on guerrilla positions elsewhere, officials said here Tuesday. At least 25 rockets fired by the Afghan resistance hit the western part of Kabul during a two-hour-long barrage on Monday, the officials said.

One rocket exploded on the tennis court of the Kabul Continental Hotel, they said, adding that there were no casualties there. About a dozen people were seriously wounded in other explosions, they said.

The latest rocketting ended a five-day lull in attacks on the city by the mujahidin who six days ago captured Tarin Kot, the capital of Uruzgan province in central Afghanistan. A government official said security forces carried out heavy air raids on mujahidin strongholds in Uruzgan and neighbouring Zabul province Monday.

It was not immediately clear if government forces had been able to recapture Tarin Kot, a small town with a disused airstrip and surrounded by barren mountains. "The airforce has inflicted heavy human losses among the enemy in Uruzgan and Zabul," the official said. He said three mujahidin leaders identified as Azim Kaku, Rasul Khan and Torkhan were among dozens of resistance fighters who died during the aerial bombardment of Tarin Kot.

Heavy fighting continued for the fourth straight day Tuesday in a region 40 kilometers (25 miles) south of Kabul, the official said. He said the government was using heavy artillery to beat off a possible mujahidin advance to the capital from its southern flank.

The Kabul government has said the mujahidin were planning to intensify their attacks on the capital and other strategic cities before the winter sets in, ending the current fighting season. The authorities here accuse Pakistan's military intelligence agency of instigating and supporting the latest drive against Kabul.

Bangladesh

Foreign Minister To Visit Moscow by November

BK0810163090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1459 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 8 (AFP)—Bangladesh Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud said Monday he expected to pay an official visit to Moscow by the end of November at the invitation of his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze. No firm date has yet been fixed, Mr. Mahmud said, referring to his meeting in New York last week with the Soviet Foreign Minister.

Mr. Mahmud, returning home with President Hussain Mohammad Ershad after a 10-day visit to the United States, said his meeting with Mr. Shevarnadze was "very good" in the context of bilateral relations and also in view of the changing international situation. The proposed visit would be Mr. Mahmud's first to the Soviet Union since becoming foreign minister in December 1988.

Mr. Mahmud also said that there might be progress on a joint initiative by six Asian Muslim states to secure an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. A joint call to this effect on Iraq by Bangladesh, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, Pakistan and the Maldives was being formulated, he said, adding that this initiative, outlined by Mr. Ershad last month, was intended to compliment other efforts to resolve the Gulf crisis. Such a joint call from non-Arab Muslim nations could serve as "another moral pressure" on Baghdad to leave Kuwait, he said.

Passengers Riot in Disputes Over Bus Fare Hikes

Increase Linked to Gulf Crisis

BK0710083390 Hong Kong AFP in English 0813 GMT 7 Oct 90

[By Nadeem Qadir]

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 7 (AFP)—Passengers and bus operators clashed in cities throughout Bangladesh over the weekend in disputes over fare increases brought on by the Gulf oil crisis. At least 100 people were reported injured here and in other cities when heated arguments over the fare hikes escalated into brawls involving up to 50 people, police said.

In the capital, hundreds of commuters were stranded or scrambled to get on the few buses and eight-seater "tempos" operating. Commuters were forced to pay exhorbitant fares to taxis or pedal-driven trishaws, and some clinged dangerously to the doors of buses.

Transport owners said the 30 per cent increase in fares was reasonable following a 50 per cent rise in fuel costs, but passengers continued to ignore new rates and fought with conductors. "Several of our buses were damaged in Dhaka and other parts by angry passengers," bus owner Babul Islam said.

Typical inter-district bus fares rose from 20 taka (55 cents) to 30 taka (83 cents), while fares within Dhaka City increased from two taka (five cents) to three taka (eight cents). The hikes followed increases in petrol prices over the past month as world oil markets came under pressure from the Gulf crisis. Bangladesh imports 90 per cent of the two million tonnes of fuel it needs annually.

The retail price of petrol increased from 22 cents to 38 cents per litre (85 cents to 1.46 dollars per gallon) over the past month, when diesel rose from 25 cents to 38 cents per litre (96 cents to 1.46 dollars per gallon). The prices of daily consumer goods have also gone up in this South Asian country where per capita income is 110 dollars, one of the lowest in the world.

Onions now cost 63 cents per kilogram (29 cents per pound) after rising from 33 cents (15 cents) in the two months since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, and the price of rice is up to 3.33 dollars per kilogram (1.51 dollars per pounds) from 2.08 dollars (95 cents). "My husband's salary is still the same ... I do not know how to meet ends," housewife Hamida Begum said.

Opposition political parties lashed out at the price increases Sunday and demanded their immediate withdrawal to remedy what some called an "anarchic situation."

"The sudden rise in fuel prices without notice has created an adverse impact on the country's economy," Salam Talukder, secretary general of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, said.

The rightist Jamaat-E-Islami Party, the left-leaning Five-Party Alliance and the Communist Party of Bangladesh echoed Mr. Talukder's statement and said they held the government of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad responsible. There was no official comment on the clashes.

Despite a decision by the transport owners to restore service Sunday, most stayed off the streets for fear of losing their vehicles to vandals. M.A. Gafur, general secretary of the Bangladesh bus-truck owners association, said it was impossible to operate without increased fares, but if passengers resisted them it was better to keep buses in the garage. The Bangladesh Road Transport Owners Association appealed Saturday to the passengers to pay the increased fares according to rates fixed by the authorities.

Students, Police Clash

BK0710153990 Hong Kong AFP in English 1517 GMT 7 Oct 90

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 7 (AFP)—Several hundred students clashed with police Sunday near the volatile Dhaka University and set ablaze a bus to protest bus fare increases brought on by the gulf crisis, witnesses said. Students belonging to nine student political groups also damaged several other passing vehicles and one passenger was rushed to a nearby hospital with a head injury, witnesses said.

Police moved onto the campus and closed all roads leading to the area, while student leaders pledged to continue the agitation till the fares were reversed, the witnesses said. Bangladesh Vice President Moudud Ahmed defended Sunday the recent fuel price rise that caused the fare increases, saying it was far lower than the rise in the international market.

"The rise in the international market is about 300 per cent while the rise (in Bangladesh) so far is 79 per cent only," the official BSS NEWS AGENCY quoted him as saying at a meeting with the country's leading businessmen. Mr. Ahmed said the hike in the communications sector "should not exceed the range of fuel prices," and called upon the people to cooperate with the government.

On Thursday, authorities raised the retail price of petrol from 22 cents to 38 cents per litre (85 cents to 1.46 dollars per gallon), while diesel rose from 25 cents to 38 cents per litre (96 cents to 1.46 dollars per gallon). Bangladesh imports one million tonnes of crude oil from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia and Iran for refining at Chittagong, together with kerosene, jet fuel and lubricants from Singapore, the UAE and, normally, Kuwait.

Protests Continue, Injure 50

BK0810140090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1320 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 8 (AFP)—Protests over bus fare increases brought on by the gulf crisis continued across Bangladesh Monday leaving at least 50 people injured, witnesses said. They said the few buses which risked operating disappeared again when attacked by protestors refusing to pay the 30 per cent fare increase.

Some 100 people were injured in similar incidents over the weekend, police said. Fuel prices were increased 50 per cent Thursday and transport operators said the fare increases were reasonable.

India

Iran Offers Help With Current Oil Crisis

BK0610170690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Oct 90

[Text] Iran has offered help to India to overcome the present oil crisis because of the Gulf situation. The offer was made by the Iranian deputy minister for petroleum, Mr. Rahgozar, who is also the chairman of the National Petroleum Corporation of that country. The petroleum and chemicals minister, Mr. M.S. Gurupadaswamy, thanked the Iranian minister for the offer and recalled the friendly ties between the two countries. Both ministers were present at the inaugural function of the Chemitech-90—an international exhibition and conference in New Delhi today.

President Appeals To People To Solve Job Issue

BK0810165790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] In Hyderabad, shops and other establishments were closed today in several places following the death of a student who attempted self-immolation on Friday last in protest against the Mandal Commission recommendations. The students damaged a number of vehicles. In Haryana, two boys at Narwal City and another in Rohtak died after consuming poison. In Bhiwani, the girl who had tried self-immolation on the 3d of this month succumbed to her injuries today.

In Bihar, one home guard was shot dead and several persons were injured today in clashes between pro and antireservationists at different places. One member of parliament, Mr. Lal Babu Ray, and one MLA [member of legislative assembly], Mr. Udit Ray, were also among the injured. According to the official sources, the police opened fire to disperse violent mobs at three places.

In Delhi, two students atttempted self-immolation at different places today against the Mandal Commission report. The incidents triggered off stone throwing and traffic holdups by antireservationists at some places on the first day of the reopening of the schools in the capital. According to police, the law and order situation in the city is under control.

The president has appealed to the people and the youth to cooperate in finding a solution to the reservation issue. Mr. Venkataraman said the government is anxious to work out a peaceful solution and wishes to have a dialogue on the issue. He was speaking to a delegation of students of Delhi University when they called on him at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] in New Delhi today. He appealed to the students and the youth to desist from taking to the recourse of self-immolation. The students assured the president that the movement has been peaceful and nonviolent. They also said that they will fully cooperate in finding a solution to the problem.

Premier Singh Appeals for Peace, Harmony

Comments on Ayodhya Temple

BK0710152090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 7 Oct 90

[Text] The prime minister has appealed to the people to help the government in maintaining peace and communal harmony. Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh said any action that can arouse fear or passion in others should be avoided. Expressing his deep distress over the recent incidents on communal violence in Karnataka, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh, the prime minister, in a statement said that the government will do anything to honor the country's commitment to secularism. It will risk and sacrifice anything to uphold secularism.

On the Ayodhya temple issue, the prime minister urged all concerned to redouble their efforts to find an amicable settlement that satisfies Hindus and Muslims alike. He said a number of religious leaders have come forward to make yet another attempt to find such a solution. Mr. V.P. Singh asked all parties to the dispute to give their fullest cooperation to the effort.

The home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, told newsmen in New Delhi today that an all-party meeting is being convened in New Delhi later this month to discuss steps on promoting communal harmony. The AIR [All India Radio] correspondent understands that the meeting which will be presided over by the prime minister will also dwell on the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid issue in a bid to find an amicable solution.

Further on Singh Appeal

BK0710170090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Oct 90

[Text] The prime minister has appealed to the people to help the government in maintaining peace and harmony and to avoid any action that can arouse fear or passion in others. Expressing his deep distress over the recent incidents of communal violence in Karnataka, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh said such incidents not only cause untold human misery, but also threaten the secular essence of India. In a statement in New Delhi today, the prime minister said the government will risk or sacrifice anything to honor the country's commitment to secularism. However, mere government efforts are not enough. Help of everyone is required to dispel fear, to scotch rumors, and to keep calm.

Referring to the Ayodhya temple issue, the prime minister urged all concerned to redouble their efforts to find an amicable settlement that satisfies Hindus and Muslims alike. Mr. V.P. Singh said a number of religious leaders have come forward to make yet another attempt to find such a solution. He asked all parties to the dispute to give their fullest cooperation to these efforts. He said the Allahabad High Court has been asked to expedite the hearing of the case and urged the people to await its decision in case a settlement is not reached through discussions. He said all must have patience and respect the law which is not only above all of us, but is the foundation of our secularism.

The prime minister pointed out that shared values, ideals, and hopes bind the people of India together who follow seven major religions and innumerable sects. All the people can live together in peace if we respect without reserve the right of fellow Indians to practice any religion, faith, or creed of their choice. The prime minister said the country today faces a threat to its secularism. Safeguarding the cherished values is the duty of every citizen not only to help maintain peace but to preserve the nation.

The home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, told newsmen in New Delhi today that an all-party meeting is being convened in the capital later this month to discuss steps on promoting communal harmony. AIR [All India Radio] correspondent understands that the meeting to be presided over by the prime minister will also dwell on the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid issue in a bid to find an amicable solution. The home minister said he will also hold talks with religious leaders. Separate discussions will be held with representatives of the Ram Janambhoomi Committee and the Babri Masjid Action Committee.

Expressing concern over growing incidents of communal tension, he said it should be the endeavor of everyone to maintain peace and communal harmony. One way of finding an amicable solution, according to him, may be that the temple may be built keeping the mosque intact at Ayodhya.

The home minister said the center is sending 18 more companies of paramilitary forces to the Uttar Pradesh government to help maintain law and order. As requested by the state government, 100 companies of paramilitary forces are already at their disposal. Additional forces will be deployed by Wednesday. Our correspondent adds that a high-level meeting was held in the capital to review the law and order situation and to consider various steps to maintain communal harmony. The meeting convened by the union home secretary was attended by the chief secretaries and the directors general of police of various states, including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh.

Announces Measures for Punjab

BK0510154590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 5 Oct 90

[Text] The prime minister today spelt out a new package of measures for the economic development of Punjab and a scheme for providing employment to the jobless youths in the state. The three border districts of the state are to be made free of the unemployment problem. Mr. V.P. Singh also announced the government's intention to set up a state advisory council to discuss important political and developmental issues and to make necessary recommendations.

The prime minister was intervening the discussion in the Lok Sabha on a statutory resolution to extend president's rule in Punjab for another six months from the 11th of November. The house later adopted the resolution moved by the home minister by a voice vote.

The Rajya Sabha also approved the resolution after rejecting the amendment moved by Dr. Subramaniaswamy of the Janata Party seeking a commitment on holding elections in three months.

Outlining the plan of action, the prime minister said the proposed advisory council is an effort to ensure that people do not feel alienated from the administration during President's rule. Similar advisory committees are to be formed at the district level to consider development programs and to redress public grievances.

Giving details of the economic package for Punjab, the prime minister said the center will support the state's program of providing self empolyment for 1 lakh youths. Ten thousand youths will be enlisted in the border areas task force during the current year. Mr. V.P. Singh said the center will also give a special grant of 100 crore rupees to upgrade human resource development facilities in the three border districts. The prime minister said it has been decided to sanction five more sugar mills in the state.

In addition, a sugar technology research institute will be set up at the Gurunak Dev University. A residential campus of the Gurunanak Dev University will be opened at Jullundur. The prime minister said in a bid to tackle the drinking water problem, work on the (Tien) dam will be expedited and direct flights will be introduced from Amritsar to Delhi and Bombay. Mr. V.P. Singh, however, assured the members that any excesses committed by the security forces will be promotly enquired into and action taken. He stated that action will be taken against those found guilty of the 1984 riots [after the assassination of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi].

Air Chief Asks Airmen for 'Battle Readiness'

BK0810094690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] The chief of the air staff, Air Chief Marshal S.K. Mehra, has called upon the air force personnel to keep a constant vigil in view of the deteriorating security environment in the subcontinent. Addressing air force personnel on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the IAF [Indian Air Force] in New Delhi this morning, the air chief called on officers to display highest battle readiness and to ensure that the country's airspace is not violated. Mr. Mehra said with the introduction of latest aircraft and weaponry, it is essential that the air force personnel kept abreast of the changes. The air chief marshal announced that the summer uniforms and ceremonial dress of the air force personnel will be changed from khaki to blue in keeping with the practices in air forces the world over.

Anti-Job Quota Agitators Abduct Pilots, Students

Protest, Violence Continues

BK0510145890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1434 GMT 5 Oct 90

[Text] In Himachal Pradesh, 13 students, including four girls, were arrested when they tried to abduct two pilots of Simla-Delhi flight this morning. These students, who were agitating against the implementation of Mandal Commission recommendations, took away the pilots and released them after about an hour. The students were later released.

Police, Students Exchange Gunfire

BK0710012490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1659 GMT 6 Oct 90

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 6 (AFP)—Several people were reported injured Saturday in the eastern Indian state of Bihar as police exchanged fire with students protesting a government job quota scheme, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

Police fired to quell rioting by anti-quota protesters in the town of Motihari and were attacked with bombs and return gunfire, which reportedly left many injured, PTI said without specifying whether anyone had died in the clash.

The news agency added that a judicial magistrate and a policeman were among those hurt in Motihari, where five students were prevented from committing suicide earlier Saturday. There was no independent confirmation of the exchange of fire, and PTI said the rioters also damaged government buildings and homes.

Quoting official sources, PTI said the protesters set up roadblocks in the state capital Patna and elsewhere in Bihar. A wave of suicides among students opposed to a government job quota scheme continued Saturday, with the number of dead reaching 30. The scheme, announced August 7, would reserve nearly half of government jobs for lower castes.

A 17-year-old schoolgirl hanged herself to death in the northern state of Haryana late Friday, while two others were injured there after setting themselves on fire, PTI said. A man from Bihar prepared to immolate himself in front of the New Delhi residence of federal Labour Minister Ram Bilas Paswan, a supporter of the quota system. He was stopped and arrested by police.

A teenaged boy who attended a student-led rally here Tuesday returned home to Hyderabad and tried to burn himself in protest, PTI said. The latest attempts bring to 90 the total number of suicide bids, including the 30 who have died.

Train Set Ablaze in Protest

BK0710162790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Oct 90

[Text] Three attempts of self-immolation on the job reservation issue have been reported since last night. In Delhi, a 19-year-old school girl today set herself on fire and had to be admitted to Safdarjang Hospital. According to hospital sources, the girl has suffered 90 percent burn and her condition is very critical.

In Punjab, a young girl took poison at Mubarakpur in Patiala District late last night and was admitted unconscious in the P.G.I. Hospital in Chandigarh. A school girl of Kurukshetra town in Haryana was admitted to the same hospital with 25 percent burn. Night curfew in Yamunanagar town will continue up to 0400 in the morning as a precautionary measure. No other untoward incidents have been reported from anywhere in these two states.

In Bihar, antireservationists hijacked a passenger train from Sherpura station and set it ablaze. According to the police, two bogies of the train have been gutted. The passengers were asked to get down, and taking the train out of the station, the agitators set it ablaze. All trains between Kalka and Simla and Chandigarh and Kalka will remain suspended in view of the antireservation agitation at Kalka. A railway spokesman said trains going to Kalka and Simla are being terminated at Chandigarh.

Pakistani Attempt To Infiltrate Militants Foiled

BK0510164090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Oct 90

[Text] India has foiled attempts by Pakistani forces to provide cover to trained militants through heavy artillery shelling to enable them cross over into Jammu and Kashmir. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi today that Pakistani forces indulged in unprovoked heavy shelling in the Manchal and Kiran sectors of the line of control. This was totally localized and heavy artillery mortar were used. The spokesman said the shelling was to divert the attention of the Indian forces, while trained militants attempted heavy infiltration in other areas from Pak-occupied Kashmir. The Indian forces respulsed the Pakistani designs and achieved success in apprehending a large number of militants. The spokesman said the militants are desperately trying to infiltrate is demonstrated by the fact that during the last month, 147 of them were apprehended in all sectors in Jammu and Kashmir but during the first five days of this month alone 107 infiltrators have been captured [sentence as heard]. A large quantity of arms and ammunition have also been seized. This included seizure of 140 AK-47 rifles during last month and 150 AK-47 rifles during the first five days of this month. The spokesman said there has been no firing from across the line of control today. He said serious concern has been conveyed to Islamabad over the unprovoked intensified shelling of our areas.

The Pakistani High Commissioner in New Delhi was called by the foreign secretary last week and told that his country's action is not conducive to the ongoing dialogue and confidence-building measures. The spokesman said the Indian High Commissioner in Islamabad is also in touch with the Pakistani foreign office over the issue.

19 Militants Arrested

BK0510164890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Oct 90

[Text] In Kashmir valley, 19 Pak-trained militants have been arrested during the last 24 hours. A huge quantity of arms and ammunition were recovered from them. The police also recovered one body in Phulwama District. In Srinagar District, militants seriously injured a person, who has been admitted to the hospital. A school building in Kupwara District was set on fire by the terrorists. Reports of some bomb blasts have also been received.

Militants Attack Security Forces in Kashmir

BK0710161290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Oct 90

[Text] Reports say that the security forces in Srinagar were attacked by a group of 70 to 100 militants today. About seven to eight security force personnel have been injured. Exchange of fire between them led to fire breaking out in a number of localities. The militants prevented the fire tenders from reaching the affected places.

Curfew Reimposed

BK0810075590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] In Kashmir, curfew has been reimposed in several downtown areas of Srinagar, following heavy exchange of fire between militants and security forces yesterday which lasted for six hours. Two persons, including a militant, were killed in the incident and five security personnel injured. According to an official spokesman, about 100 militants opened fire on the security forces, who had gone there for searches of the hideout. The militants later set fire to several houses in a bid to escape. The Army was called out to help the paramilitary forces. Elsewhere in the area, militants killed three persons and one militant was killed by the security forces near the border.

Militants Killed, 'Subversives' Held in Kashmir

BK0910033390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Oct 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, 10 persons, including eight militants were killed yesterday in terrorist violence. Thirty subversives were also arrested during searches at different places. Meanwhile, there will be no relaxation today in curfew in nine police station areas of Srinagar City. The areas are Rainawadi, Kalarkor, Nauhata, Karannagar, Safakadal, Thaniar, Maharajganj, Mehsuma, and Shahidganj.

Police Fire on Prisoners in Delhi Jail Riot

BK0510164990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Oct 90

[Text] Nine persons were killed and 225 were injured when police opened fire inside the Tihar Central Jail in New Delhi to control a group of prisoners who went berserk after the death of an undertrial this morning. A spokesman of the Delhi administration told AIR [All India Radio] correspondent that the Tamil Nadu special force personnel had to resort to firing after a lathi [Baton] charge failed to control the situation.

Bomb Blast Kills, Injures Several in New Delhi

BK0610160890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Oct 90

[Text] In Delhi, two persons were killed and three injured when a powerful bomb exploded inside a three-wheeler autoricksha on the NOIDA [New Okhla Industrial Development Authority] Road this evening. According to police sources, the injured with severe burns have been admitted to a nearby hospital.

Police Open Fire in Udaipur Violence

BK0810081290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] In Rajasthan, the situation in the curfew-bound areas of Udaipur City turned violent again last night. During the curfew relaxation period of three hours during the day, no untoward incident took place. However, the situation turned violent in the night and the police had to open fire in the area.

Iran

President Says Troops Must Leave After Crisis

NC0810161390 Paris AFP in English 1600 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] Paris, Oct 8 (AFP)—The Iranian president said Monday that foreign troops must leave the Gulf region as soon as Kuwait is liberated or his government would force them to leave. In an interview with the French daily LE MONDE, 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said "foreign troops stationed in the Gulf are only there because of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and must leave as soon as Kuwait has been liberated."

He warned that if troops did not leave, "Iranian public opinion would naturally demand that we take measures to force them to leave." Mr. Rafsanjani did not say what sort of "measures" he had in mind. The Iranian leader said his country would not join multinational forces in

Saudi Arabia, but said Iran was rigorously applying the international embargo against Iraq.

He added that Iran would reject any solution to the Gulf crisis which involved Kuwait ceding the island of Bubiyan to Iraq. Iraq wants the Kuwaiti-owned islands of Bubiyan and Warbah so that it will have wider access to the Gulf.

Mr. Rafsanjani said his country would only renew "friendly, deep and solid" relations with France once the financial dispute between the two countries was solved. The dispute centres on the reimbursement of the outstanding debt and interest on a billion dollar loan made by Iran to France before the 1979 Iranian revolution, and on Iranian compensation to French companies for broken contracts.

Gives Election Address

LD0610185790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1503 GMT 6 Oct 90

[Election address by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, candidate member for Tehran in the Council of Experts—date and place not given; recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. As regards the elections, I have nothing to say about myself because, after years in office, the people have come to know me well, and I doubt there is any ambiguity in their minds with regard to my disposition. They will no doubt continue to follow their insight in their conduct. The focus of my address is chiefly on the principle of elections, for which reason I have taken part in this interview [as heard]. In general, elections constitute a part of the basis for guaging the [extent of] the people's presence on the scene. It is a good instrument for measuring the people's interest in their country's affairs, as well as their sense of responsibility in terms of the existing problems in their society. In addition it is also considered to be a document of growth and a criterion of the people's intellectual growth on a global level.

Generally, in societies where there is insufficient [intellectual] growth, the people are not concerned with social issues and instead spend more time on their personal affairs; in those societies a sense of self-interest is more potent than that of community-interest. Or, where the people do not have any interest or any confidence in their country's system, then they adopt an apathetic attitude toward issues.

However, the methods by which elections are carried out can also reflect the conditions of the people in that society. In any case, the first important issue—excluding that of the elections—is the role played by the people through their presence and participation in the elections, which is a source of pride for any country, enabling it to show the interest with which its people are taking part in elections.

There are societies which, by creating much clamor, tension, and rivalries based on their interests—party or personal interests—lure the people into participating in the elections. Of course, this is one method, but one which is not an evidence of growth, one which proves the absence of culture. In other words, the people's extensive participation in the elections for the sake of their personal interests. [sentence as heard]

Fortunately, it has not been so in our country. From the onset of the revolution until the present we have had a good level of popular participation in elections. In comparison with the other free countries in the world, our people have shown greater participation in the elections, and generally there has been no, or very little, material or personal rivalries and motives for self-interest. Of course, we cannot claim that there have never been any interest-seeking motives among various trends, but they have not resulted in any fundamental impact. The people participated in elections as a duty, and voted in accordance with their own judgement. Of course, their judgement could have depended on remarks delivered by persons who had their confidence, but in any case, they voted in accordance with their own judgement.

Fortunately, no one has managed to accuse us of not holding free elections or forcing them to vote for certain persons.

This time, again we have the issue of the Council of Experts, which from certain aspects is worth much attention. One aspect of it is related to the issue of leadership which is the most important issue in our country. We have no foundation more sacred than that of the leadership in our society. We know that the velayat-e faqih [rule of the supreme jurisconsult] and the leadership constitute the most significant pillars of this revolution.

Well, on this issue, every single person considers his or her fate to be involved, and it would not make sense for them not to take part in the elections. It is important for us from the point of view of our social prestige in the world; in other words, anyone who is interested in his or her country's pride in the world and wants it to play a more effective role in world affairs should, in all reasonableness, take part in this and take the time to cast a vote.

From the fundamental point of view, too, because the Council of Experts always makes decisions about the country's most basic issue, the more popular support it has behind it, the more strength it will have in its decisions. Therefore, every vote is effective for the weight and the credibility of the Council of Experts; especially so because the eminent leader has also spoken of the issue in terms of a duty.

The point which is important in my view and which I want to stress now arises from the discussions which were raised recently in the country's mass media and on public platforms and which may have aroused some doubts in the minds of some people who think in simple terms. I want stress for you that the doubts which were raised were, in all fairness, not valid doubts. That is, they were really not justified. First, from the legal point of view, I think that no one raised any doubts; whoever said anything said that it was not in keeping with our interests; they spoke about the contents [not the form]. In other words, the Council of Experts had the right to stipulate the general points of the election and it did so in the same way that the Majles can stipulate what it wants. Therefore, no one raised doubts about that. Then, within that [general] law, the Council of Guardians became the axis for identification and was made responsible for verifying the qualification of the candidates. And the Council of Guardians, with the capabilities which it posseses, acted as it judged fit; that was its right.

It is also possible that some people consuider the law not to be in accordance with interest. It is their right to express their views and they did so. Therefore, nothing was done against the regulations, the Constitution, or Islam's holy shari'a [Islamic law] or the country's rules. On the contrary, it was quite valid.

In some constituencies there is no competition, but that cannot be a reason for not taking part in the election, either. The people should participate and if by chance they do not like the candidate, they can express their vote in a different way on the ballot paper given to them so that their true choice is indicated there.

At any rate, taking part in elections is important to us. The people who have become candidates, in our opinion, all have reasonable qualifications and everyone can vote for the candidates of their choice. On the other hand, we know that the blessed spirit of the imam of the ummah will be made joyful if there is extensive participation in the elections, and if he considers the participation to be weak his blessed spirit will undoubtedly be disappointed. And we would not be prepared to see that; our people would definitely not be prepared to see the spirit of their imam saddened. And especially now that we are seeing times of joy, victory, and success—at the start of this historical juncture—our solid participation in the first election since victory has particular significance which must be borne in mind. I hope that we will see the extensive presence of our people on election day. May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Interviewed After Voting

LD0810180690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] This morning President Hashemi-Rafsanjani arrived at a polling station and voted in the election for the Assembly of Experts and the Majlis midterm election. Our correspondent interviewed President Hashemi-Rafsanjani:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, I offer my congratulations on this special day. Considering that you were present at some of the ceremonies in which his eminence, the imam [Ayatollah Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni], participated in elections, please tell us what importance he bestowed on elections and the results of the peoples' vote.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The imam always held the view that the revolution is dependent on the people and is not a gift to be given to the people from outside or by some individual. It belongs to the people themselves. He usually advised us, and the people, that as long as the people are with you, you will be on the right path and serve the nation. He also used to say: Always strive to keep the people with the revolution and ensure that the people regard the revolution as something which belongs to them. His eminence mainly stressed this point. His life showed that he regarded public opinion as the most basic foundation of the system. This is something that others say to some degree, but his eminence believed in it and was steadfast in this belief to the end. [end recording]

Yazdi Backs Guardians, Denounces Arguments

LD0510133390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Oct 90

[Text] On the auspicious days of the blessed birthday of the revered prophet, His Holiness Muhammad Mustafa, peace be upon him and his scion, and His Holiness Imam Ja'far Sadiq, peace be upon him, the devoted people of our country presented themselves at the unity-aspiring Friday prayers sites and performed the immortal Muhammadan rites.

Meanwhile, the Friday prayers ceremonies in Tehran were held with the participation of the Hezbollah ummah at Tehran University and adjacent steets. The head of the Judiciary [Ayatollah Mohammed Yazdi] led the prayers. In the prayers sermons he first congratulated world Muslims for the blessed birthday of the seal of the prophets, His Holiness Muhammad, peace be upon him and his scion, and also the blessed birthday of the sixth bright star of the sky of the velayat and imamate, and explaining the fruitful lives of those two stars in the world of inspirations he said:

The advent of His Holiness Muhammad was aimed at taking humanity from the yoke of the oppressors, fire worshippers, and idol worshippers, and guided mankind toward monotheism and worshipping God. He added: Imam Ja'far Sadiq also, during the jewel-like 65 years of his life, taking advantage of the resources in his period, transferred to mankind the soul of Islam and its laws as well as all the truths which he gained through inspiration.

The acting Friday prayers leader then referred to the remarks and guidelines of the honorable leader of the Islamic revolution [Khamene'i] on the occasion of Unity Week and said: What should have been said was said by His Eminence on various occasions and apart from respecting the law and recognizing the respect for law, it is up to us to safeguard the credibility and the prestige of the Council of Guardians.

Referring to the significance of the role of the Council of Guardians plays in the Islamic Republic of Iran's system, he said: The system's prominent legislator is the Majles, but it is the Council of Guardians that supervises the law and secures its Islamic nature. For that reason this important organ in the Islamic Republic of Iran's system enjoys and will enjoy respect and support from all of us.

Tehran's acting Friday prayers leader added: Every person's honor, within their own status, must be completely respected by the people and the officials and no person should be insulted. Not having reached the status of ejtehad [ruling on Islamic legal issues] does not lead to people's characters being questioned.

He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran's system—which was founded by the imam, and the honorable nation has brought it up to the current level by giving martyrs and suffering hardship, and today the imam's pious son, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i is its leader and all people of Iran support him—cannot come to any harm if I or people like me support or oppose it.

The acting Friday prayers leader of Tehran on the occasion of Unity Week said: At a time when we invite the world of Islam in its entirety to preserve unity, it is vital fors various domestic factions within the Islamic Republic of Iran to show respect for each other and refrain from all sorts of divisive arguments.

On the Persian Gulf crisis he said: If a security system is to be established in the region, it should be done by the region's countries and in particular the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is a power in the region and not by the alien forces who have come to the region from the other side of the world.

At the end of the Friday prayers sermons, Tehran's Friday prayers imam once more placed emphasis on the participation of the people in polling stations for the election to the Assembly of Experts which are to be held on Monday 16 Mehr [8 October 90] and said: Our revolutionary people will go to the ballot boxes on Monday and vote for eligible individuals.

Comments Further on Gulf Crisis

NC0510192190 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1120 GMT 5 Oct 90

[Arabic sermon delivered by His Eminence Ayatollah Mohammed Yazdi during Friday prayers in Tehran on 5 October—recorded]

[Text] Brother and sister Muslims in all parts of the world, particularly in the Arab world. May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

The issue of the Persian Gulf crisis has almost overshadowed all other events. The crisis factor and the level of the danger of explosion and the outbreak of war are clear to all. Iraq has occupied Kuwait in violation of international resolutions. The UN Security Council issued resolutions condemning Iraq and called on it to withdraw from Kuwait. An economic embargo has been imposed on Iraq to force it to implement the UN resolutions. America and its allies have sent large-scale ground and naval forces and military equipment to the area, and Saudi Arabia has become their main base. Iraq has made the foreigners [word indistinct] of war and prevented them from leaving. Intensive political efforts have been made in the East and West, in Asia and Europe. The Arabs have claimed that the crisis should be solved by themselves. Meetings, efforts, appeals, and messages were of no avail. The efforts of the secretary general of the Security Council [as heard] and the meetings of the heads of states of the East and West have not solved the problem. The area is living under the threat of a catastrophic war. There is almost no other solution left.

The question is: Is the presence of all these foreign forces designed to end the aggression and observe the rights and laws, or is it to serve their own interests? In our opinion the Islamic world must discover itself, put its differences aside, unite, and solve the problem. The people of the area themselves should be deserving [sentence as heard]. The Arab states should keep away from subservience and resort to Islam before Arabism.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, which is the largest power in the area, will not be able to take an observer position and bear the presence of the foreigners in the area for a long time. The solution lies in the acceptance of the rights of the peoples and the human and Islamic masses and acceptance of the UN-approved resolutions. It is hoped that Iraq will gain wisdom and the foreigners will wake up also, so the area can enjoy a peaceful Islamic and human life.

I pray God's forgiveness for you and me. In the name of God, the merciful, and compassionate. "To thee have we granted the fount (of abundance). Therefore to thy Lord turn in prayer and sacrifice. For he who hateth thee, he will be cut off (from future hope)." [Koranic verse] May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

European Countries Told of Loopholes in Blockade

NC0710124290 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 7 Oct 90

[Text] According to press reports published in Abu Dhabi today, the Iranian Government has decided to halt commercial dealings with five companies in Britain which are managed by Iranians and Iraqis. The measure was taken when Tehran received information to the effect that Iraq was trying to deal with these companies.

According to sources, Iran notified Britain and a number of European countries about the loopholes which Iraq can use as to circumvent the international economic blockade imposed on it. The sources add that Iran provided these countries with the names of Western companies and institutions which may be dealing with Iraq.

Commentary Sees 'No Positive Sign' To Avoid War

LD0610214690 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 6 Oct 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] With the lapse of over two months since the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, there is still no positive sign in keeping the region away from the flames of a devastating war. All those who have created this crisis are speaking of the need for seeking a peaceful solution to it and contend that they will not start the war but at the same time they are constantly adding to the war preparations.

French President Francois Mitterrand after inspecting French military units stationed in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates has reiterated his government's commitment to the restoration of the status quo that existed in the region prior to last August 2nd. All those familiar with the Persian Gulf issues believe that Paris is mostly showing its interest in a nonmilitary solution because it knows that the war will further complicate the problems faced by the region, and any casualties in the ranks of the French troops will weaken the position of Mitterrand and the socialist party. Similar to the other units of the U.S.-led multinational force, France is trying in order to have control over the sources and means of oil exports, to have permanent presence in the area.

In another development, the British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, in emulating Mitterrand and Bush has constantly assessed the Middle East problems and said that access to a broad-based settlement in the Middle East will be possible only after forcing Baghdad to withdraw its forces from Kuwait. It is necessary to refer to this point in connection with the British foreign secretary's comments made at a gathering of political correspondents following the speeches of Mitterrand and Bush at the UN General Assembly session that the cancerous tumor known as Israel was caused by Britain in the core of the Islamic realm. And, since 1948 when the Zionist regime was set up in the occupied Palestine, it has been constantly backed politically, militarily, and in terms of propaganda by both America and the West bloc. Encouraged by such backing, Tel Aviv has embarked in the most heinous and inhuman acts against the combatant people of Palestine and continued the occupation of their homeland.

In the opinion of the Arab political experts, statements of Douglas Hurd and other advocates of the Zionist regime are being made at the time when the Muslim and Arab nations of the region are showing their wrath at the extensive and insolent presence of the multinational forces of the West, and in the vicinity of the sacred places and in the land of the divine revelation. They are demanding the adoption of a decision similar to that taken against the Iraqi Government, in the case of the Zionist regime, which has for the past 42 years occupied the territories which belonged to another nation. In the course of these years, scores of resolutions and proposals have been approved by the UN Security Council, and the General Assembly, against the aggressions of the [word indistinct]. But the Zionists relying on the U.S. and Britain's backing in particular, have continued with their disregard of various international regulations, conventions, and resolutions. The Zionists have made such a mode of conduct a part of their foreign policy during the course of their continual occupation of Palestine. Now when there is need for the enforcement of the UN Security Council's resolutions on the Persian Gulf crisis it will [word indistinct] that the implementation of the resolutions issued by the council, on the Palestine issue, and on the aggressions of the Tel Aviv too, be pursued with greater seriousness.

Major Powers 'Flexibility' in Gulf Policies Noted

LD0710154690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1100 GMT 7 Oct 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings dear listeners. In the process of the developments resulting from the Persian Gulf crisis, and in line with an international collective effort to attain a final solution to the crisis, the world is witnessing an unprecedented series of flexible moves in the major powers' stances aimed at solving the current crisis. This flexibility in their stances follows a series of threats, vigorous remarks, and strongly worded resolutions issued by the Security Council against Iraq.

Mitterrand's four-point plan for a peaceful solution of the Persian Gulf crisis; the French prime minister's remarks pertaining to the necessity of a six, eight, or 10-month period which the international community should wait for international sanctions to show their effects; Bush, the U.S. President, stressing at the UN General Assembly that a solution to the crisis in Kuwait can be a prelude to solving the crisis in the Middle East; criticisms made by Douglas Hurd, the British foreign secretary, of the Israeli policies, placing emphasis on the necessity for holding discussions between Israel and the Palestinians after Iraq has withdrawn its forces from Kuwait; all indicate the West's political flexibility via-a-vis the Persian Gulf crisis.

On the other hand, the meeting of Japan's prime minister with Taha Yasin Ramadan, deputy prime minister of Iraq in the capital of Jordan, which is an unusual move in the current crisis; the visit of the Soviet presidential advisor to Baghdad and his meeting with Saddam, and announcements by both sides that they wish to maintain mutual friendly relations; and lastly Gorbachev's remarks that in his opinion no war will take place in the Middle East; all show an international political diversion vis-a-vis the current crisis and against Iraq's declared stances.

Within the framework of this political flexibility, various countries' stances and remarks of major countries' leaders connecting the two crises of the Persian Gulf and the Middle East enjoy a particular significance. The major countries' sudden and fairly coordinated leniency toward each others positions and political actions, and announcements that the two crises in the Persian Gulf and the Middle East are connected, raises the question of what aims are pursued by the major powers resorting to this move?

Some experts believe this general leniency in the policies of the major powers, in particular following a period of rising threats and displays of power, and also after a series of consultations on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly between the foreign ministers of the major countries, indicate that those countries have reached the conclusion that conditions for a 100 percent successful action against Iraq have not beeb not obtained, and therefore the crisis should be resolved through nonmilitary means, and in particular the crises should be guided toward their diplomatic and propaganda dimensions until natural and atmospheric conditions necessary for actions have been achieved. [passage omitted]

Some experts believe that this flexibility in the declared positions can be seen as a political maneuver to divert attention, aimed at taking Iraq by surprise against a collective military attack. Those experts do not see as a natural procedure the change in the major powers' positions, after the harsh warnings and strongly worded resolutions and a series of consultations between the foreign ministers of the permanent members of the Security Council, and therefore see the aim of those fairly coordinated diversions in the political stances as means for confusing the enemy and preparing the conditions to take the enemy by surprise.

Velayati, UN Envoy Discuss Refugees From Iraq

Khan Praises Government Aid

LD0610171890 Tehran IRNA in English 1644 GMT 6 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 6, IRNA—The U.N. chief's special envoy Sadruddin Agha Khan in a meeting with a Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Saturday lauded the Islamic Republic for its humanitarian help to foreign expatriates crossing into Iran from Kuwait and Iraq. Agha Khan, who earlier toured Iran's northwestern border with Turkey, which handles most of the transit traffic, described Iranian assistance to the fleeing expatriates as "excellent." Velayati called on international circles to pay more attention to foreigners from Kuwait and Iraq using the Islamic Republic as a transit route.

Kuwaiti, Other Arrivals Continue

LD0610183690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Oct 90

[Text] With the arrival of over 836 more Kuwaiti citizens in Iran, the number of Kuwaitis who have entered Iran via the Shalamcheh land border since Friday 28 September has reached 2,860. According to IRNA, the arrival of Kuwaiti citizens in Iran via the Shalamcheh border is continuing. The report states: In this period, a large number of Iranians living in Kuwait, as well as 10 citizens of India, Sri Lanka, Lebanon, Egypt, and Uganda have also entered Iran via the Shalamcheh land border.

Ahmad Khomeyni Notes Lack of Internal Divisions

LD0810165190 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni cast his votes at Hoseyniyeh-e Jamaran this morning to elect deputies of the Assembly of Experts and the Islamic Majles. [Video shows Ahmad Khomeyni surrounded by bodyguards. After casting his vote, he is shown speaking]

[Begin Khomeyni recordingJ] The enemy should realise that there is never any division in Iran, and what is being observed is just a difference in taste, which is always found at elections. We must strive to bring our views closer to each other and through our unity we should bring despondency to the enemy, in particular to the criminal America. We should strive to continue the path and style of our dear imam and we should stand behind our dear leader to follow the winding road of the revolution and the system. [end recording]

Assembly of Experts Voting Returns Reported

NC0910075190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 9 Oct 90

[All figures as heard]

[Text] The State Elections Headquarters has announced that the counting of votes began immediately after the polls closed for the second round of elections for the Assembly of Experts, which continued until 2100 last night because of the people's turnout in some of the constituencies, and is continuing. The report states that until 0700 today, according to the figures sent to the elections headquarters, the counting of votes in five provinces has been completed. The results of the elections for experts in these provinces have been posted as follows:

In Kordestan Province out of the total number of 279,502 ballots cast, Mr. 'Abdollah Mohammadi received 171,223 votes; Mr. Seyyed 'Ali Hoseyni received 108,330 votes; and Mr. Hoseyn 'Ali Rahmani received 78,400 votes.

In Semnan Province, out of the total number of 142,165 ballots cast, Mr. Mohammad Daneshzadeh received 119,511 votes and Mr. Mohammad Hasan Ahmadi-Faqih received 16,979 votes.

In Markazi Province, out of the total number of 298,924 ballots cast, Mr. Haj Sheykh Abolfazl Khansari received 233,182 votes; Mr. Seyyed Mehdi Seyyed-Ruhani received 162,472 votes; Mr. Haj Sheykh Mohammad-Hasan Zari received 88,990 votes; and Mr. Haj Sheykh Hoseyn Rajabi-Nevisi received 39,799 votes.

In Hamadan Province, out of the 420,999 ballots cast, Mr. Seyyed Abolhasan Dabestani received 340,565 votes; Mr. Ahmad Saberi received 203,558 votes; and Mr. Qiasoddin Taha-Mohammadi received 172,705 votes.

In Yazd Province out of the total of 183,807 ballots cast, Mr. 'Abbas Aqa Khatam-Yazdi received 178,942 votes.

As a result, the following people received the relative majority of votes among the election candidates:

In Kordestan Province: Mr. 'Abdollah Mohammadi and Mr. Seyyed 'Ali Hoseyni.
In Semnan Province: Mr. Mohammad Daneshzadeh.
In Markazi Province: Mr. Haj Sheykh Abolfazl Khansari and Mr. Seyyed Mehdi Seyyed-Ruhani.
In Hamadan Province: Mr. Seyyed Abolhasan Dabestani and Mr. Ahmad Saberi.
In Yazd Province: Mr. 'Abbas Aqa Khatam-Yazdi.

Also, during the mid-term elections for the third term of the Majlis in Fuman constituency, out of the total number of 85,429 ballots cast, Mr. Mohammad Reza Shafi'i Kas-Ahmadani received 37,012 votes received the necessary number of votes in the first round of elections.

Commentary Views Primakov Mission to Iraq

LD0510215490 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 5 Oct 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The special envoy of Mikhail Gorbachev and the member of the Soviet Presidency Council, Yevgeniy Primakov, arrived in Baghdad yesterday for talks with the Iraqi officials. Primakov, who is also an expert on the Middle East issue, had arrived in Oman on Wednesday and conferred with Jordan's King Husayn and the chairman of the PLO's Executive Committee, Yasir 'Arafat.

In this connection, the Soviet Foreign Minister, Eduard Shevardnadze pointed out that Primakov's mission is to make endeavors for the evacuation of Soviet subjects from Iraq. However, it did not rule out talks on other subjects.

Meanwhile a spokesman of the Soviet Foreign Ministry concerning the trip of Gorbachev's special envoy, noted: This trip is considered as an important step towards (?probing) ways for terminating the current crisis in the Persian Gulf region. According to Shevardnadze, at present about 5,000 Soviet subjects are staying in Iraq and there have crept up certain problems in the way of their evacuation from the country. Despite this, the Soviet nationals in Iraq do not consider themselves as hostages. The Soviet Foreign Minister believes that Iraq is delaying the issuing of exit visas to them. It appears that the Baghdad government following the Soviet Foreign Minister's speech at the UN General Assembly session wherein he said the UN also has (?military sources) at its disposal to bring an end to the Iraqi aggression, has put obstacles in the way of the Soviet subjects' departure from Iraq and also hit out at Shevardnadze.

Since the onset of the recent crisis in the Persian Gulf region, the Soviet Union, despite its long-standing ties with Iraq, has cooperated with America and the West in confronting the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and the consequences arising out of it. The Soviet Union has also voted in favor of all the UN Security Council resolutions on the Persian Gulf crisis. In spite of this, the kremlin has refused to dispatch troops to the region, but at the same time declared that if necessary it will participate in a joint force under the supervision of the UN Security Council's military committee. To (?end) the ongoing crisis in the Persian Gulf, the Soviet Union has constantly recommended a peaceful solution, and even at the onset of the turmoil, the Soviet foreign minister had made a proposal on the formation of an international conference on the Persian Gulf crisis and the Middle East issues.

The trip of the Soviet president's special envoy, alongside the visits of the Japanese premier, and the French president to the Persian Gulf region, are in fact tantamount to a move aimed at subsiding recent tension caused by the strengthening of the probability of eruption of a war in the area. Moreover, the four-point plan of the French president, Francois Mitterrand, for settling the crisis, and also the comments of the U.S. President George Bush on the possibility of discussing other Middle East issues after the termination of the Persian Gulf turmoil, in the opinion of the political observers has come in the same connection.

Soviet President, Mikhail Gorbachev, too, yesterday said: In my opinion there will not take place any war in the Persian Gulf. He implicitly pointed out that Moscow did not have any intention to dispatch a military force to the region. Gorbachev special envoy Yevgeniy Primakov, upon his arrival in Baghdad yesterday, also stressed the need for finding a peaceful settlement on the Persian Gulf crisis.

Pakistan

President Praises Armed Forces; Affirms Peace

BK0710161890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 Oct 90

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has said the Pakistani armed forces, which enjoy full support of the nation, are fully capable of defending the motherland. He was speaking as a chief guest at the fifth reunion ceremony of the Punjab Regiment in Mardan today. He said: The standard of training, defense preparedness, and morale of our forces are very high, and, if a war is thrust upon us, we will teach an exemplary lesson to the aggressor. The president reaffirmed that Pakistan is a peace-loving country and does not want war. He added that Pakistan is making all-out efforts toward promoting durable peace, friendship, and cooperation in the world in general and in this region in particular. He however noted that some of Pakistan's neighbors are not taking any initiative and have not given any positive response to Islamabad's efforts in this regard and are instead trying to intimidate Pakistan by making provocative statements and massing troops along the borders. But, the president declared, Islamabad will not be provoked by them. He made it clear that Pakistan could not be bullied by show of strength as the Muslims fear none except the Almighty God.

Ghulam Ishaq Khan expressed concern over the brutalities against the Kashmiri people and the use of force against them to deny them their right to self-determination. The president assured that Pakistan will do everything possible to see that the Kashmir issue does not become a cause of armed hostilities between Pakistan and India. Nevertheless, Pakistan will continue to provide moral and political support to the people of occupied Kashmir. At the same time, Islamabad will also persevere in its sincere efforts to make its neighbors realize that peace and stability are very essential for the region and that Pakistan will cooperate in all positive efforts in this regard.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan praised the achievements of the Punjab Regiment, saying that the regiment has played a historic role in several wars. He announced a grant of 1 million rupees for the welfare of soldiers. Earlier, the president formally installed Lieutenant General Imtiaz Warraich as new colonel commandant of the regiment. On this occasion, Chief of the Army Staff General Mirza Aslam Beg presented the crest of the regiment to the president. The ceremony was also attended, among others, by Amir Gulistan Janjua, the governor of the North-West Frontier Province.

Ishaq Khan Says Ready To Work With Bhutto

BK0610112490 Lahore THE NATION in English 6 Oct 90 p 12

[Text] Islamabad—President Ghulam Ishaq Khan asserted that he was ready to work again with the deposed Prime Minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, provided "she retains the mandate and follows the democratic path".

Talking to THE NATION here at a reception hosted by the Ambassador of Germany in connection with the reunification of the two parts of the country at the Embassy on Wednesday, he said that there was no truth in the impression that he would tender his resignation if the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] came into power again following the October 24 elections.

Caretaker Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi and Chairman Senate Wasim Sajjad were also present on the occasion.

When his attention was drawn to the reported disclosure of the COAS [Chief of Army Staff], General Mirza Aslam Beg that a sabotage plot aimed at the disruption of the polls had been unearthed, he said "we are to prevent sabotage act". He, however, was reluctant to respond to questions regarding the kind of plot and whether there was any involvement of political elements or foreign powers, etc.

The President further observed that the government was fully capable of dealing with any situation and was making efforts to create conditions conducive to the holding of elections and transfer of power to the elected representatives of the people. The President also noted that elements who are creating doubts about the elections were not serving the national interests.

Jatoi Hopes for Early Resolution of Aid Issue

Discusses Elections

BK0810161990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi has said that his government will accept whatever verdict is given by the Supreme Court on the dissolution of the National Assembly. In an interview with foreign correspondents in Islamabad today, he said that we respect the judiciary, because this is where we can seek justice. He said that we neither organize demonstrations on these organizations nor attack the courts. He said we also do not destroy their furniture. It is the duty of all Pakistanis to respect the judiciary, the prime minister said.

In reply to a question, the prime minister said that he cannot say anything on whether the Supreme Court will give its verdict on dissolution of the National Assembly before 24 October or not. He said that is for the court to decide.

On coming elections, the prime minister said that they will be held according to the program. He categorically said that there is no intention to postpone the elections on the plea of external dangers or situation. However, he added that, although there are external factors, we hope that our neighbors will allow us to undergo the election process and will not vitiate the existing situation.

On the suspension of U.S. military aid to Pakistan, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi said that it is a temporary thing and the issue will soon be resolved. He said that such situations have occurred in the past as well. He categorically said that the action has not been taken because of the internal situation in Pakistan. The prime minister said that he has sent a letter in response to a correspondence from President Bush. He said that he hopes that the U.S. Administration will resolve the issue by assuring congress of the peaceful nature of Pakistan's nuclear program.

Rejects Nuclear Inspection

BK0810162190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] Pakistan has categorically stated that it will not throw open its nuclear facilities for inspection by U.S. or any other international team. Speaking to newsmen in Islamabad today, the caretaker prime minister, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, said that the Bush Administration's decision to suspend military aid to Pakistan has come as a surprise. He said Pakistan will not accept any interference by the U.S. in its internal affairs.

Commenting on the U.S. decision to suspend military aid to Pakistan, an official spokesman said in New Delhi today that India has always maintained and believed that Pakistan's nuclear program has been clandestine and weapons oriented in nature. He said we have noted that this fact has been taken note of by persons and authority in Washington.

Further Comments on Election, Aid

BK0810164990 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Excerpts] The prime minister, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, has said the election will be held on schedule and it would not be delayed on any count, such as external threat or situation. In an interview with foreign correspondents in Islamabad today, he said internally the government had evidences that some quarters were planning to create disruption within the country. This was not just a charge, but certainly these things would come out at the right time.

About the general law and order situation and activities of Al-Zulfiqar [underground pro-Bhutto organization], the prime minister said until the inquiries are held, he would not go into details. [passage omitted]

About accountability, he said the process would continue. Enumerating factors behind consuming time in filing court actions against the former prime minister, he said that no thief leaves traces behind. They could have arrested these people immediately after 6th August. But they wanted enough evidence for sending cases to the tribunal.

To a question about oil prices, the prime minister said the Gulf situation has put a heavy burden on Pakistan's economy and it has come to a point where they can hardly bear it. The whole thing has to be reassessed and priorities fixed.

About suspension of U.S. military aid, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi said it was a temporary phenomenon and the problem would be overcome soon. The prime minister said he had written a letter to President Bush on the subject in response to his communication. He reiterated that Pakistan had no intention of producing nuclear weapon and its nuclear program is absolutely peaceful. The prime minister disagreed with a suggestion about allowing international inspection of Pakistan's nuclear facilities and said it could not be done unilaterally. He said we are prepared for the nonproliferation treaty provided other countries in the region are also prepared to do so.

About dispatch of Pakistani troops to Saudi Arabia, the prime minister said it had been done on the basis of bilateral agreement between the two countries.

Jatoi Interviewed on Summit, Border, Elections

BK0910051990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Oct 90

[Text] Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi has welcomed Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh's agreement to holding summit-level talks between the two countries. In an interview with foreign correspondents in Islamabad, he said he was glad that the Indian prime minister was thinking in these terms and that it shows desire on both sides to resolve the issues through negotiations. He, however, said he was certainly concerned over the border situation. He said the world is heading toward peace and unanimity of ideas on international issues, adding that tensions and the cold war are over. Pakistan will, therefore, welcome regional cooperation with neighboring countries.

Asked about the troop buildup on the eastern border and the discovery of a plot by some elements to create a law and order problem in the country, the prime minister said the government has evidence that some quarters were planning to create disturbances.

About the manifesto of the Islamic Democratic Alliance, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi said it has been finalized and consists of various policy matters envisaging the socioeconomic uplifting of the masses. It will provide the people with a government that can effectively manage national affairs. He added that there is complete unity and unanimity among the rank and file of component parties within the Islamic Democratic Alliance

In reply to a question, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi said the process of accountability currently under examination before the judges of the superior courts will continue and that the persons charged should prove their innocence as provided by the law governing this process which was conceived during the former regime of the Pakistan People's Party under the late Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. The present government has improved the law, giving the right of appeal in the Supreme Court and permission to engage defense counsel to ensure that the process is absolutely fair. He dismissed the former prime minister's allegations in this connection and said that if there was any drawback in this law, she could have amended, cancelled, or improved it.

Replying to a question about the general law and order situation and activities of [outlawed group] Al Zulfiqar, the prime minister said he could not go into details that might affect inquiries in this regard. According to government information, the People's Party has links with Al Zulfiqar, which is still an organized group.

When asked if such elements are coming from India, he said some of them have their training camps in India. The prime minister added that action would be taken against these elements. He said we have enough evidence to institute cases against them.

PRC Military Aid To Replace U.S. Package

BK0910143790 Lahore THE NATION in English 9 Oct 90 p 12

[Text] Islamabad—It is reliably learnt that China will fulfil the defence requirements of Pakistan following the US military aid suspension.

The attache of Chinese Armed Forces who has gone to Beijing for talks in this regard, is returning to Islamabad this week. The Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan while talking to THE NATION at the reception of 45th 'Youm-i-Tasees' [Foundation Day] of Indonesian Army on Sunday [7 October] might said that China was prepared to extend cooperation to Pakistan in all fields including defence.

When asked whether China would fill the vacuum created in the defence needs of Pakistan on account of the US suspension of US military aid, he said that China would not hesitate to fulfil the defence needs of Pakistan. He said that he would not give his opinion about Pak-China relations as it was the matter of both countries.

The Chinese Ambassador paid tributes to the expertise of the Pakistan Army and said that the armymen of Pakistan were the best warriors. In reply to a question, he said that China wanted to normalise relations with India but India was trying to foil our efforts by supporting Dalai Lama.

He said that Indian Government recently provided all facilities to Dalai Lama for his visit to Germany. He said that Chinese Government had protested to Germany on this issue. The Chinese Ambassador said that Dalai Lama had no importance in China or Tibet and Indian support to him was not a judicious step.

Commenting on Cambodian President's visit to India, he said China did not recognise Cambodian President and India could not play an major role by inviting such puppet rulers. When asked whether Chinese Prime Minister would visit India during the current year, he said it depended on Indo-China relations but no such plan could be finalised in this connection.

It is pointed out that Chinese Premier is to visit India in return to the Indian Premier's visit to China two years back, but the date could not be fixed. The Chinese Ambassador while commenting on Pak-China ties said: 'Both countries have cordial relations as usual. China will always play a positive role to safeguard the integrity of Pakistan.'

Government To Prevent Early Bhutto Departure

BK0710112690 Lahore THE NATION in English 7 Oct 90 p 1

[Text] Faisalabad—Mian Zahid Sarfraz, Federal Minister for Interior, said here on Saturday that necessary measures had been taken by the Government to ensure that Ms Benazir Bhutto did not flee the country after giving a proper answer to the charges of massive corruption levelled against her and her cronies.

Addressing a public meeting in his constituency, he said Ms Benazir Bhutto was in the habit of seeking shelter outside the country whenever she found adverse conditions for her within the country.

Posing herself as innocent and a victim of alleged Government hostilities, she begged for international support through Indo-Zionist lobby, he asserted.

He said that she had reportedly amassed wealth worth billions of rupees and transferred it to countries outside Pakistan. This money was enough for her and other members of her family to lead a luxurious life for a long period. Her mother and father-in-law, sisters and brother were already outside Pakistan and she had nothing at stake in Pakistan. It was apprehended by the people that after meeting her Waterloo on October 24, she would slip out of the country making false accusations against the government.

She had now seen writing on the wall and hitting the President and the respected national leaders right and left for an alibi to leave the country, he added.

Hearing Exempts Bhutto From Court Appearance

BK0810113990 Hong Kong AFP in English 1110 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] Karachi, Oct 8 (AFP)—A special tribunal hearing charges of misconduct against Pakistan's deposed Premier Benazir Bhutto here has exempted her from having to appear personally at hearings, court sources said Monday. Justice Wajihuddin Ahmed, ruling that Ms. Bhutto's personal appearance was not required at this stage in court, accepted Sunday an exemption motion filed by her advocates, the sources said. The next hearing is fixed for Wednesday.

A full bench of the high court in Lahore has ordered 11 leading members of Ms. Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party to appear Sunday to explain why they should not be charged with contempt of court for allegedly disrupting an October 2 hearing for Ms. Bhutto. Ms. Bhutto is expected to appear again on Tuesday in Lahore before a special court set up by the interim government named after her August 6 sacking on charges of corruption and abuse of powers. The caretaker government is headed by her political adversaries.

Court Rejects Petition for Elections Postponement

BK0810154590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] The Lahore High Court full bench, which is hearing petitions concerning dissolution of the National Assembly, today rejected a petition seeking postponement of the 24 October elections. The petition, filed by the Lawyers Front, was dismissed on the grounds that the petitioner has no right to interfere in this matter. The full bench had issued a notice to the attorney general yesterday concerning a petition filed by Dr. Abdul Basit. The petition had sought the postponement of elections until the court's verdict on present petitions [challenging dissolution of the National Assembly]. In his brief petition, Dr. Abdul Basit had pleaded that since the court's verdict on the above-cited petitions on this issue is pending, many of the candidates are not taking an interest in the election campaign and if elections are not postponed, they will suffer losses. Attorney General Aziz A. Munshi, the prime minister's counsel, S.M. Zafar; and Khwaja Ahmad Tariq Rahim's lawyer strongly opposed the call for postponement of elections. The full bench comprised Justice Mohammad Rafiq Tarar, chief justice; Justice Mahbub Ahmad, Justice Manzoor Hussain Khyal, Justice Ehsanul Haq Chaudhry, and Justice Malik Mohammad Qayyum.

Prime Minister Regrets Communal Riots in India

BK0610132690 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 6 Oct 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, has regretted the killing of Muslims in riots in India and said it is the duty of the government there to protect the life and the properties of the minority. Addressing the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] workers in Islamabad today, he said it was with the infinite mercy of Allah Almighty that Pakistan offered security to 100 million Muslims as well as non-Muslims living within its borders. The condition of our co-religionists across the border confirms our fears regarding domination by those motivated by religious prejudice.

The prime minister said the forthcoming general elections would be a turning point in the history of the nation, because the people would be able to ensure continuation of the democratic process and root out the corrupt and incompetent leadership of the past.

Government Expels Four Indian Consular Officials

BK0810140090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1247 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 8 (AFP)—Pakistan has asked New Delhi to recall four staff members of the Indian consulate in Karachi because of their "undesirable" activities, officials here said Monday. The Indians "have been involved in undesirable activities which were totally incompatible with their official status," a foreign ministry statement here said. They will be leaving Pakistan in eight to 10 days, the statement added.

Pakistani Army chief, General Mirza Aslam Beg, said last month that trained terrorists had infiltrated into Pakistan to destabilize the country and sabotage the October 24 elections. Caretaker prime minister, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, said Monday the government had "solid evidence" about a plot involving the al-Zulfikar "terrorist" organization to disrupt the elections.

The organization is allegedly headed by Murtaza Ali Bhutto, brother of ousted Pakistani Premier Benazir Bhutto. Mr. Bhutto went into exile after the 1977 overthrow of his father Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto by the late military ruler Mohammad Ziaul Haq. Talking to foreign correspondents, Mr. Jatoi said some of the al-Zulfiqar members had received terrorist training in India.

Spokesman Denies USSR Occupied Border Area

BK0910013490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0100 GMT 9 Oct 90

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman has refuted the report published in a section of the press that the Soviet Union has occupied some area near Chitral [in Pakistan's Northwest Frontier Province bordering Afghanistan] and that Soviet aircraft have violated Pakistan's airspace. The spokesman said in Islamabad yesterday that there was no evidence of Soviet military operations on Pakistan's northern borders. The report is absoluetely false, unfounded, and irresponsible, while the fact is that both Pakistan and the Soviet Union are constantly working to maintain normal friendly relations with each other.

Yaqub Khan Urges India To Grant Kashmiri Rights

BK0510161190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 5 Oct 90

[Text] Pakistan has told the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] countries group that the very fabric of the movement cannot endure if its members flout the NAM principles. Pakistan has also urged India to allow the Kashmiri people the right to determine their future. Addressing the 101-member NAM ministerial meeting at the United Nations last night, the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, questioned how we can ask others to respect the right to self-determination while we ourselves violate it. The Kashmiri people, he pointed out, have been deprived of their right to self-determination for a long time, and they are now launching a valiant struggle against the Indian occupation. The foreign minister said he hopes that as a member of the NAM, India will desist from the use of force to suppress the uprising of the Kashmiris. It will fulfill its obligation under the relevant Security Council resolutions and the principles of NAM and allow the people of Kashmir to freely exercise their right to self-determination, the foreign minister hoped.

Referring to the Gulf crisis, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, called on Iraq to immediately and unconditionally withdraw its troops from Kuwait.

IJI Chief Condemns 'Genocide' on Indian Muslims

BK0810043090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] In a statement in Lahore, the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] chief, Mian Nawaz Sharif, has condemned the genocide on Muslims in India and demanded immediate steps to stop atrocities on them. He said for the improvement of relations between India and Pakistan, it is essential that they are based on equality and the Muslims in India are provided with equal basic rights.

AJK President Urges USSR on Kashmir Issue

BK0910102190 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 9 Oct 90

[Text] The president of Azad Jammu and Kashmir [AJK], Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan, has urged the Soviet Union to put pressure on India to get an end to genocide of Kashmiris in the held territory. In a statement in Ghaziabad, he said that a durable peace cannot be established in the region unless the Kashmiris are given their basic right of self-determination. He welcomed the statement of the Soviet president for easing tension between Pakistan and India over the Kashmir dispute. The AJK president expressed the hope that the Soviet Union would play its role in the settlement of Kashmir issue under UN resolution.

Police Told To 'Shoot at Sight' Sindh Abductors

BK0610164990 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 6 Oct 90

[Text] The Sindh governor has given orders to the police to shoot at sight those involved in kidnapping for ransom. This was disclosed by the Sindh chief minister, Jam Sadiq Ali, while addressing a news conference in Karachi today. Referring to the increasing cases of dacoity and kidnapping for ransom in Karachi, he said the situation is not satisfactory, but has improved to some extent as compared to the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] period.

About the release of Mr. G.M. Syed [Leader of Jiye Sindh Movement], the Sindh chief minister said there was no case against him. Referring to the release of MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] workers, he said that he had promised to release those people, who had been implicated in false case.

Rocket Barrage on Afghan Border Area Kills One

BK0710114590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1129 GMT 7 Oct 90

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Oct 7 (AFP)—A barrage of rockets hit a sparsely populated Pakistani area on the border with Afghanistan early Sunday, killing one person, official sources said. At least 17 rockets fired from somewhere inside Afghanistan landed in the Darosh region, about 35 kilometres (20 miles) south of Chitral in the mountainous northern part of Pakistan, the sources said.

A few hours later, two Afghan Mig aircraft intruded into Pakistan airspace, they said. After circling over Chitral for some time, the planes flew towards the strategic Afghan Wakhan salient bordering Pakistan, the Soviet Union and China, the sources added. The Afghan resistance claims that the Soviet Union has continued to maintain a troop presence in the Wakhan corridor after their withdrawal from other parts of Afghanistan in February 1989.

German Unification Cited As Example for Kashmir

BK0610123790 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 6 Oct 90 p 4

[Editorial: "The Sore Thumb"]

[Text] The reunion of the two Germanies has sent a breath of fresh air floating across Europe. As an aftermath of the Second World War and the ignominious defeat suffered by Germany, the country was split asunder by the superpowers and the infamous Berlin Wall came into being. This ugly structure not only divided the German State, it bifurcated Berlin, reminding the German nation that they had, for an indefinite period, cut off from their near and dear ones residing on either side of the divide. The unification, therefore, brought untold joy, albeit temporarily, to millions of Germans. Quite some time before this unification, the wind of change had swept over Europe, particularly its eastern part, which found itself being rapidly divested of the shackles of communism much sooner than its wildest dreams. At that stage, the world at large began to sense that colonialism in all its facets would soon become a thing of the past.

The divide in Korea was a direct result of the ambitions of the superpowers in the region. Introduction of alien ideologies in Korea caused such a tremendous rift among its peoples that the country was plunged into a bloody civil war, of course, with the active participation of the United Sates of America and the USSR in aid of South and North Korea respectively. It was a long, bitter struggle which took a toll of innumerable lives and ended with the formation of the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Here, too, one nation was divided into two and people of the same family found themselves parted without hope of ever meeting agian. Finally, hostilities ended and the 49th parallel was agreed upon as the dividing line between the two Koreas. Of late, there has been much effort on the part of the two at formulating the modalities of an eventual unification and some headway has, indeed been made to this end. The civilised world is waiting eagerly for the Korean peoples to become one again and there is great optimism that the day is not far off. That, indeed, will be another fatal blow for colonialism.

Now that nations and people all over the world are either being reunified or in the process of reunification, it is time the international community gave serious thought to the unification of the two Kashmirs which have been languishing apart for forty-three years. Kashmir, the jewel of the subcontinent, has been bleeding for this period with parents separated from children, brother from sister. The illegal accession of Kashmir to India by its weak, ineffectual Maharaja in 1947 is a story which is well-known. At the time, the partition of Kashmir, albeit forcible, was supported by the superpowers. Now, however, with the drastically changed international scenario presenting the joyous spectacle of crumbling colonial bastions, it is high time this island of colonialism was viewed in the same perspective and the Kashmiris delivered from their long, dark night of tyranny and oppression.

Resistance Divided Over Mounting Kabul Offensive

BK0610054990 Hong Kong AFP in English 2249 GMT 5 Oct 90

[By Rene Slama]

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Oct 6 (AFP)—Following a military victory in central Afghanistan, the Pakistan-based resistance appeared divided Friday over a possible offensive this month on the Afghan capital Kabul, resistance sources said. Some rebel leaders, particularly Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, want to move quickly, while Moscow and Washington near agreement on holding elections in Afghanistan and stopping arms shipments to the mujahidin resistance.

[Afghan] Deputy Defence Minister Mohammad Nabi 'Azimi acknowledged Friday that resistance fighters had seized the "small garrison" in Tarin Kot, the capital of Uruzgan Province, overnight Wednesday. It is the first provincial capital to fall into the hands of the mujahidin since Soviet troops completed their withdrawal from Afghanistan in February last year.

Mr. Hikmatyar is trying to galvanize support among his Sunni partners here for a major attack on Kabul before the first winter snow, sources here said. The resistance leader, involved in a March coup attempt against Soviet-backed President Najibullah, is suspected of continued involvement with the Pakistani secret service (ISI). Mujahidin sources said his Hezb-E-Eslami party has sent thousands of weapons, including rockets, to Kabul.

But many resistance commanders oppose a massive bombardment that could cause civilian casualties in Kabul, and they reject any hasty actions taken without their consent. "Everyone must agree," said resistance commander Amin Wardak, adding that "no single faction is capable of toppling Najibullah alone."

Said commander Abdul Haq: "If we must take Kabul now, it would be a disaster." He added that the issue of "credible" leadership within resistance ranks was still unresolved. Divisions within the resistance have worsened since the Soviet pullout, with the worst rupture between military leaders influential in central Afghanistan and political leaders based in neighboring Pakistan.

Amin Wardak, Abdul Haq and other military leaders last spring began efforts to coordinate their ground operations and assert independence from the Peshawar-based political parties, which they say lost credibility in the failed Jalalabad offensive after Soviet troops withdrew.

Further, the Pakistan-based Afghan Interim Government has been the object of much internal squabbling that has tarnished the image of the resistance, otherwise hailed by the West for its success against the occupying Soviet troops. "Without political leadership, any military operation is useless," said Naim Majrooh, an intellectual known for his liberal ideas and now a refugee in Peshawar.

Amin Wardak has stepped up contacts in recent weeks with Ahmed Shah Masud, a Tajik leader influential in northeastern Afghanistan, and said he hopes for another meeting of leaders inside Afghanistan soon.

Sectarian Tensions Prompt Curfew in Parachinar

BK0810142990 Hong Kong AFP in English 1322 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Oct 8 (AFP)—An indefinite curfew was imposed Monday in the town of Parachinar in Pakistan's Kurram tribal area amid tension between Shi'ite and Sunni Moslems, officials said. Sectarian tension gripped the town, about 200 kilometres (120 miles) southwest of here, after the rival groups shouted slogans against each other during a Shi'ite religious procession, they said.

Parachinar, headquarters of the Kurram tribal agency bordering Afghanistan, has a population of about 40,000, evenly divided between the two sects. A large number of Afghan refugees also live in the area. Sectarian clashes in the Kurram agency in 1987 left many dead. Pakistan counts some 20 million Shi'ites among its 110 million people.

Sri Lanka

Muslims Oppose Province Merger, Want Referendum

BK0610155590 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0932 GMT 6 Oct 90

["Oana/Pool item"]

[Text] Colombo, 6 Oct (LANKAPUVATH)—The All Ceylon Muslim League delegation to the All Party Conference [APC] has voiced its disapproval of a permanently merged north and east and has told the APC that it supports the holding of a referendum to confirm any such merger. Pointing out that while Muslims consist of only 17 percent of the population of the North Province, they make up over 35 per cent of the Eastern Province. The delegation states that if in spite of their opposition a merger is to take place, then two separate Provincial Councils [PC] be created—one for Tamils and one for Muslims.

The delegation proposes that in the combined north and east, Ampara District be recognised as the base of the Muslim PC. This PC will incorporate the governing of all the Muslim dominant areas in the Batticaloa District such as Kattankudy, Eravur, Valaichenai and Ottamavadi, the Muslim dominant areas in Trincomalee District such as Mutur and Kinniya and Muslim dominant areas in the Mannar District such as Erukkalampity and Musali.

"We do not propose shifting of the boundaries of the existing north and east boundaries commission to demarcate the Muslim dominant areas within the north and east provinces", the delegation has stated in a letter to the secretary of the APC [sentence as received].

Defense Ministry on LTTE 'Human Shields'

BK0410103090 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0659 GMT 4 Oct 90

["Oana/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 4 Oct (LANKAPUVATH)—The Defense Ministry yesterday said that more than forcible conscription, the immediate threat faced by innocent civilians in the northern province is that they are being herded like cattle and taken to the operational areas to be used as human shields by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam].

In fact, it is understood that one of the chief reaasons for the recent pullout of the Security Forces from the Jaffna Fort area was to minimize such civilian casualties, the ministry release said. The release also made the following points:

Several Tamil political parties and groups are faced with the grim prospect of their trained military cadres being totally wiped out as they hve been forcibly enrolled by the LTTE terrorists uniformed, armed, and forced into the battle fronts as cannon fodder. The numbers so conscripted are said to be in the region of 7,000.

A number of Tamil youths, who recently escaped from concentration camps in the Jaffna Peninsula and survived the 90-mile treck on foot to Vavuniya, have related to the authorities the prevailing reign of repressions enforced by the LTTE terrorists. Tamil farmers, who have defied LTTE orders, are being chained into groups and taken as a work force for digging of trenches and construction of bunkers. Eyewitnesses have described large number of wailing women and children following these groups that are being taken away for forced labor.

Three heads of Sri Lanka missions abroad have reported that Sri Lankan expatriates will be setting up a human rights organization soon to protect and safeguard the rights of the Sinhala, Tamil, and Muslim people who are being systematically exterminated by the LTTE terrorists. This new organizations, while countering the disinformation campaign, will prvail upon human rights organizatons throught the world to roundly condemn the current wave of genocide by the LTTE terrorists.

LTTE Rebels Continue To Hold Jaffna Fort

Refuse ICRC Occupation

BK0510120290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1102 GMT 5 Oct 90

[Text] Colombo, Oct 5 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Government said Friday it would oust the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels from Jaffna Fort after the rebels refused to hand it over to the Red Cross. Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne told reporters here that the LTTE had told the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) that it was not prepared to give up the fort on the island's northern tip.

"I told the ICRC to move out of the fort area in the next 24 hours to take effective action," Mr. Wijeratne said without elaborating. "LTTE has indicated to the ICRC they cannot accept the position that the fort be taken over by the ICRC," Mr. Wijeratne told the press briefing, which was attended by top military officials including Army Commander Lieutenant General Hamilton Wanasinghe. "We will take effective action to evict them," he said.

It was not clear if the battle to recapture the fort was already under way but military sources said the only way to drive the Tigers out of the fort would be through aerial bombing. Lt. Gen. Wanasinghe said the fort was of no strategic value, but with the available air cover "any LTTE cadres within the fort could be easily destroyed."

A military offensive on September 13 lifted a rebel siege on the fort and rescued 175 trapped soldiers and police. Two weeks later, the government suddenly pulled out of the 17th century, Dutch-built fort and asked the ICRC to use it to arrange the reopening of nearby Jaffna hospital. The Tiger leaders moved in after the government pulled out.

The 1,100-bed modern hospital had been shut since heavy fighting broke out on june 11 between rebels and government troops. Mr. Wijeratne said the LTTE occupation of the fort was preventing the 800,000 civilians in the Jaffna peninsula, a traditional LTTE bastion, from obtaining medical help from the main hospital.

"It only goes to prove the LTTE has no concern for the civilian population," Mr. Wijeratne said. He rejected suggestions that Colombo allow the hospital to reopen without the condition that the ICRC first take over the fort. "I am not going to allow them (the Tigers) to wave their flag any longer (inside the fort)," Mr. Wijeratne said. He denied the LTTE had gained a morale-booster from the fort's occupation and said it would not be difficult for the army to recapture the fort, which once housed the Jaffna peninsula's main military camp.

Major General Denzil Kobbekaduwa, the head of the Northern Military Command said the military lost 45 men and 160 others were injured in the operation to break the fort siege. "We will be in a better position" to fight them, Mr. Wijeratne said.

Meanwhile, the LTTE said it would hand over the bodies of 12 soldiers who were killed when the Tigers overran the fort on September 26, to the parents of the dead men "on humanitarian grounds." It said that if Colombo showed no interest in receiving the bodies of the soldiers, "the LTTE will cremate them with due respect."

A military spokesman here denied the Army had casualties during the fort evacuation but said that if the LTTE had bodies of soldiers they must be those troops who were killed, and buried by the Army, during the offensive to break the fort siege.

In a major strike against rebels in the east during the last 24 hours, security forces ambushed and killed several Tigers in eastern Trincomalee, the spokesman said, adding a search was on to determine the number of LTTE casualties. He said a joint police-Army patrol also killed at least five more militants in eastern Amparai District after a fierce exchange of fire. An Army officer was also injured during the gunfight, the spokesman said.

According to official figures released Thursday, 1,117 soldiers and policemen have been either killed or missing since June 11 when the Tigers relaunched their separatist war in the Tamil-dominated northeast. The figures also estimate that the LTTE lost more than 1,600 of its fighters and another 1,750 have been wounded in the battle. Another 572 civilians have also died in the violence, officials said.

Government Issues Communique

BK0510121890 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 5 Oct 90

[Text] The security forces reported that foot patrol in the areas between Mankulam and Yakaweva on the Medawachchiya-Mannar road was ambushed by LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists during the last 24 hours ending at 1200 yesterday. In the ensuing fire fight, seven soldiers died and one was injured. The fleeing terrorists fired on the Sinhala village of Thammanpura, but no casualties were reported. A Defense Ministry commmunique says the Special Task Force [STF] is conducting cordon and search operation in the Amparai District. In Karaitivu, the STF attacked a group of LTTE terrorists and killed three of them. In (Raceskulam) area, the Special Task Force raided a LTTE hideout, killed of them and recovered shotguns, hand grenades, ammunition, uniform and medicine and a large quantity of food. In Wattamadu, the Special Task Force attacked a group of terrorists and killed two of them. It has been reported that information regarding the hideouts and movements of the LTTE terrorists is being received by the security forces and the police continuously. According to the communique, in the Thawani and (Attuvedi) areas of Batticaloa north, the security forces, providing security to farmers working in the fields, repulsed an attack by the LTTE terrorists. Two terrorists were killed in this encounter, while the others fled leaving the bicycles and the pressure mines they had brought with them.

The communique states that the ship, (M.V. Amarland), left Colombo with a consignment of over 450 metric tons of food and essential items for Talaimannar. It is now reported to be moving around the coast of Kankesanthurai. The ship, M.V. Sigiri, M.V. Lankasiri, and (M.V. Winkochera), are expected in Colombo soon. The ship, M.V. Sigiri, on arrival will be loaded with food and essential items which will be unloaded off the coast of Wankali in the Mannar island. The ship M.V. Lankasri and (M.V. Winkochera) will carry a consignment of food for Point Pedro.

LTTE Said Conscripting Children

BK0810094890 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0759 GMT 8 Oct 90

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 8 Oct (LANKAPUVATH)—The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] having lost over 2000 cadres including 25 of its leaders has in a desperate attempt threatened to kill the chief occupant of every household in the Jaffna Peninsula if one child from their family is not handed over for conscription to the LTTE cadres. Reports received by LANKAPUVATH from Jaffna state that the LTTE has resorted to forcible recruitment to the 'baby army', as a last ditch attempt to prevent being wiped out by security forces of Sri Lanka who have sent the Tigers reeling.

A foreign correspondent who visited Jaffna a few days ago told LANKAPUVATH that he had seen ten-year-old boys who had been snatched from their parents and forcibly recruited into the LTTE ranks to create what the LTTE calls the Tamil Eelam Army. The reports from Jaffna also state that while the coastal areas have sufficient stocks of food, the LTTE is preventing the distribution of food to the rest of the peninsula although ample stocks are being shipped from Colombo by the government.

The reports also state that villagers have to purchase permits at high prices from the LTTE to travel to Vavuniya to make whatever purchases they could afford to. The 850,000 people of Jaffna town and those in the rest of the peninsula are complaining bitterly at the suffering they have to endure due to LTTE brutality. But, the few who protested openly against this brutality had been shot dead by LTTE terrorists who were now termed by Tamils as a band of brigands.